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 † www.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 115 MIDDLESEX STREET NORTH CHELMSFORD

St. Mary 25 NORTH ROAD **CHELMSFORD**

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

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

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Monday - Friday • 9:00 AM

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 • 7:00 AM

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

RECONCILIATION

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

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

First Friday of the Month • Monday - Wednesday • 9:30 - 11:30 am

RECONCILIATION

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

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

MASSES ARE AVAILABLE VIA LIVE STREAM

Visit www.chelmsfordcatholic.org LIVEVIEW resides on the right-hand sidebar of the home page

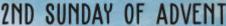
PRAYER LINE

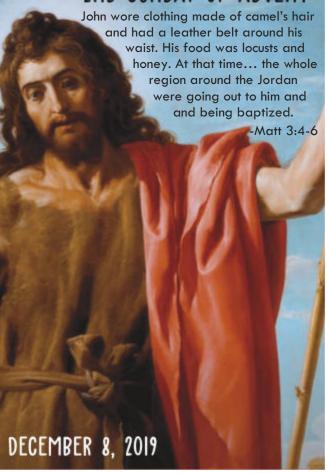
To have prayers said for yourself or a loved one, call the parish office and ask for ext 223.

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











St. Mary Calendar

· Sunday, December 8 ·

Faith Formation Events • Refer to Page 6
Grace Notes Rehearsal • 8:10-8:045 am • Church
Children's Liturgy of the Word • 11 am Mass • PC Chapel
Holy Land Tour Info Meeting • 1:00 pm • Church
Table Ministry • 1:00 - 4:00 pm • Kitchen
Town Hall Meeting • 3:00 - 4:00 pm • Church

· Monday, December 9 ·

Matthew Bible Study • CANCELLED TODAY
Altar Server Training • 4:00 - 5:00 pm • St. John Church
Reconciliation • 7:00 - 8:00pm • St. John Church
Catechism Presentation • 7:00 - 8:00 pm • Church (or LiveView)
Pray the Rosary • 7:00 pm • Family Prayer Room
Troop 77 Committee Meeting • 7:00 pm • PC Conf Room 2

• Tuesday, December 10 •

Altar Server Training • 4:00 - 5:00 pm • St. John Church Pray the Rosary • 7:00 pm • Family Prayer Room Town Hall Meeting • 7 - 8 pm • St. John Church (or LiveView)

Wednesday, December 11

Boy Scout Troop 77 • 7:00 - 8:30 pm • Parish Hall SVdP Quarterly Meeting • 7:00 - 9:00 pm • PC MR5 Reconciliation • 7:00 - 8:00 pm • Church Pray the Rosary • 7:00 pm • Family Prayer Room

• Thursday, December 12 •

Rosary Makers • 10:30 am • PC Conf Room 2 Rosary • 12:00 - 1:00 pm • PC Adoration Chapel Pray the Rosary • 7:00 pm • Family Prayer Room Adoration • 3:00 - 9:00 pm • PC Adoration Chapel

· Friday, December 13 ·

Adoration • 7:30 am - 9:00 pm • PC Adoration Chapel Knitting and Crocheting • 2:00 - 4:00 pm • Parish Hall Pray the Rosary • 7:00 pm • Family Prayer Room

Saturday, December 14.

Adoration • 9:30 am - 3:00 pm • PC Chapel Reconciliation • 11:00 am - 12 noon • Church Confirmation Retreat • 1:00 - 9 pm • Church and Parish Hall Music Ministry Rehearsals • 2:30 - 3:45 pm • Conf Room B Anointing of the Sick, following 4 pm Mass • Church

· Sunday, December 15 ·

Faith Formation Events • Refer to Page 6
11 am Choir Ministry Rehearsal • 9:45 - 10:50 am • Choir Loft
Children's Liturgy of the Word • 11 am Mass • PC Chapel
6 pm Music Ministry Rehearsal • 5:00 - 5:45 pm • Church
High School Youth Group, begins with 6 pm Mass - 9 pm • Parish Hall

St. Mary Spirit of Christmas GIFTS ARE DUE THIS WEEKEND!

Please place the gifts on the unmarked tables in the Parish Center Conference Room 1. Gift cards should be placed in the secure Gift Card Drop Box.

Thank you, thank you, thank you for your selfless generosity and in making the Christmas holiday a little more special for someone in need.

If you are able to give a few hours of your time on the morning of December 9th to help sort the gifts, we will meet in the Parish Center at 9 am. If you have any questions, please contact Rae at (978) 505-4589 or Diane at (617) 470-7797.

CALLING NEW ALTAR SERVERS

ALL youth in grade 3 and up, who have received their First Communion, are invited to become Altar Servers at the parish in which they worship.



The below dates are all at St. John's, but open to future altar servers of both parishes. Sessions last about one hour. It is mandatory that you attend 3 training sessions.

Monday December 9th at 4 pm Tuesday, December 10th at 4 pm Saturday, December 21st at 11 am

Join Fr. Brian on a Pilgrimage to the

Holy Land

March 1—10, 2020

Still Room AND Time to Register!



Visit our website...

wwww.chelmsfordcatholic.org for a link to

all the tour information. Additionally, brochures can be found in the church and parish center entrances and parish offices.

For those who have already registered AND those who are looking for a little more information before making a final decision to do so, join Fr. Brian for an...



THIS Sunday, December 8th 1:00 pm in St. Mary Church

"Justice shall flourish in His time, and "Justice shan from fullness of peace forever." ~Responsorial Psalm 72.

Upcoming Town Hall Meetings

St. Mary THIS Sunday, December 8 at 3pm St. John THIS Tuesday, December 10 at 7pm

Fr. Brian will be available to answer questions and hear concerns from our parishioners. These events are NOT parish specific, so attend the one that works best with your schedule. If you are unable to physically attend either, you can attend via LIVEVIEW. Links to each parish can be found in the right-hand column

on the home page of our website.



St. John **Annual Giving Tree Ministry**

GIFTS DUE NEXT WEEKEND

Please return your wrapped gift(s) **NEXT** WEEKEND, December 14th/15th. Please DO NOT leave your gifts under the tree. If you are unable to get your gifts to the church



by next weekend, please contact Laura at (978) 251-0408 to make other arrangements. RETURNING GIFTS ON TIME =

DELIVERED ON TIME.

Deepen Your Faith this Fall

Our seminarian, Andrew John, continues with his weekly one-hour teachings on the Roman Catechism. Sessions are informal with faith-related questions most welcome. Only 2 scheduled Monday evenings left...

December 9th and 16th!

Live view or St. Mary Church ~7-8

St. John St. Vincent de Paul

Weekend of December 14/15 Food Collection

The St. John St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry gratefully accepts food donations on the third Sunday of every month.

As always, we thank you for your kind and faithful generosity. Please pay attention to expiration dates.

St. John Calendar

Sunday, December 8

Faith Formation Events • Refer to Page 7 Children's Liturgy of the Word • 8:30 am Mass Coffee and Donuts, following 8:30 am Mass • Mariotti Holy Land Tour Info Meeting • 1:00 pm • St. Mary Church Group Baptism • 2:00 pm • Church Town Hall Meeting • 3:00 - 4:00 pm • St. Mary Church

Monday, December 9

Adoration, following 9:00 am Mass • OPC Chapel Altar Server Training • 4:00 - 5:00 pm • Church Families with Addiction Support Group • 7:00 pm • NPC Lessons and Carols • 7:00 pm • Church Reconciliation • 7:00 - 8:00 pm • Church Catechism Presentation • 7 - 8 pm • St. Mary Church (or LiveView)

Tuesday, December 10

Adoration, following 9:00 am Mass • OPC Chapel Altar Server Training • 4:00 - 5:00 pm • Church Open Music Rehearsal • CANCELLED TONIGHT Town Hall Meeting • 7 - 8 pm • Church (or LiveView)

Wednesday, December 11

Adoration, following 9:00 am Mass • OPC Chapel Reconciliation • 7:00 - 8:00 pm • St. Mary Church Adoration • 6:30 - 8:30 pm • OPC Chapel

· Thursday, December 12 ·

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 Children's Christmas Choir Rehearsal • 7:00 - 8:00 pm • Church

Friday, December 13

African Community Rosary • 6:30 pm • Library

Saturday, December 14

NO 9:00 am Mass: Mass at St. Mary this week Confirmation Retreat • 1:00 - 9 pm • St. Mary Reconciliation • 3:00 - 3:45 pm • Church

· Sunday, December 15 ·

Faith Formation Events • Refer to Page 7 Children's Liturgy of the Word • 8:30 am Mass Coffee and Donuts, following 8:30 am Mass • Mariotti African Liturgy • 12:30 pm • Church

Turn page for more

Saint Vincent de Paul St. Mary's Conference



Each year as the Christmas season approaches, we ask parishioners to consider making a charitable donation to the Saint Vincent de Paul Society. Your past

generosity has helped our dedicated members provide financial assistance to our needy neighbors in the parish community. Our financial report published annually in the bulletin shows the extent of our work in the parish and how your donations are spent.

The Gospels remind us that Jesus taught the faithful to have compassion for the poor, the sick, and the troubled among us. There are individuals in our St. Mary's Parish and community who experience an unexpected personal budget crisis and do not have adequate savings or family assistance available to pay their bills. We typically receive calls when these individuals just don't know where else to turn for help.

Our mission is to listen, offer comforting advice, and provide assistance for overdue rent, trailer park fees, utility bills, or other needs. We also provide information about food pantries, food programs, fuel and rent assistance, and social services. In addition, we offer and suggest prayer to ask God for the strength to cope with their crises.

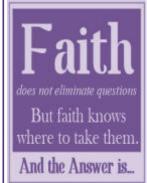
Your contributions help us make a real difference in people's lives, and we ask for your continued support. You may mail a check, made out to "St. Mary's SVdP," to the parish offices or place an envelope to our attention in the weekly collection basket. You may also donate electronically through the **Online Giving** link found on the Catholic Collaborative website homepage. We wish you a blessed Christmas and thank you for your generosity.

-Ray Gatti, President

welcome to more

Q. If Jesus lived in the 1940's, would He hate Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party?

A. No, He would not. Jesus loves each and every person who has



ever lived, is living today, and will live in the future. The reality is that Jesus died on the cross for every person. Why? Simply put, Jesus' love is unconditional, unmerited, and unwarranted. There is no action we could ever take that would create a situation where He would no longer love us.

But Jesus would have hated the actions taken by them. And I have no doubt Jesus would have been the first to denounce everything that Hitler and the Nazi party

stood for. As Christians we must call out injustice and evil where we see it. We must witness always to the truth of the Gospel. And that means standing up against what society may be telling us is good or true. It means being willing to tell people that what they are doing is wrong. We can and we must judge the actions of others. However, we cannot judge them for those actions. But, at the same time, there are consequences to bad choices, and we are not being unloving when we enforce those consequences. Each person is responsible for their choices and must be willing to accept the consequences. However, we still must love the person no matter what they have done, and no matter what the consequences of their choices are. Jesus loved those who crucified Him and, in fact, asked the Father to forgive them as well. That is our standard as Christians. Hate the sin, but love the sinner.

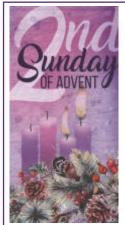
Q. Where does your Guardian Angel go when you die?

They continue their role in heaven. What their role is after your death is not certain. They most likely accompany the person through purgatory until they reach perfect union with God in heaven. The ultimate purpose of the guardian angel is to help you achieve what you were created for, which is to be with God forever in heaven.

Q. What age group do you like working with?

If I am honest, I like working with all age groups. And I am not simply saying this in order to avoid trouble with any particular group. What I like is that every group has its own unique challenges and needs. I enjoy the variation in what I need to do in order to serve the whole people of God, who are part of our parish communities. One of the things I love about the priesthood is its variety of experiences and challenges that arise each and every day. And that is because where people are in their journey of life is different and arises from their particular life experiences. Therefore, each age group has its own issues that create different opportunities to experience God and how He is working in their lives.

of what's happening in our Collaborative!



Well, this time of the year is a time of preparation. We bake cookies, decorate the house, put up the tree and the lights, buy and wrap presents, send Christmas cards, and do countless other preparations. But do we prepare our hearts?

Advent, at its core, is about getting ready to encounter Jesus at Christmas. Your journey to that encounter begins with recognizing that in the end it all comes down to the mercy of God. No one is perfect. You and I, we don't just want mercy. We need it.

We've heard it before: "For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son..." (Jn 3:16). But have you really thought about it? God came for you. And He came because He loves you. Let him love you this Advent. Let him show you his heart. And let Him transform yours. Then, at Christmas, you will be prepared to welcome him in a whole new way.

~www.dynamiccatholic.com



Bring the baby Jesus figurine from your Nativity set to Mass NEXT weekend so it can be blessed!

This is a beautiful Advent tradition; one that sanctifies the home with the baby Jesus and makes His arrival in the manger scene on Christmas Eve an even more joyous event.

St. John Paul II began a tradition early on in his papacy where he invited the children of Rome to assemble in St. Peter's Square on the Third Sunday of Advent during his Angelus address. He asked them to bring their little statue of the baby Jesus that would be placed in their Nativity set at home. John Paul II blessed the figurines of those present, and told them to assemble before the manger scene with their family in a spirit of prayer.

"As I bless your little statues, beloved children, I think with serene hope of you, of the immense good that you can do, precisely because you are little, within your family, the school and society itself. Not for nothing did Jesus himself choose you as models for those who wish to have a part in his Kingdom" (cf. Mt 18:4; Mk 10: 15).

"Take home, with great care, the little statue of the Infant Jesus, also as a sign of the Church's love for you and your families. Put it in your Crib with intense faith, with that faith wherewith the Blessed Virgin, the Mother of God, laid the new-born Jesus in the manger (cf. Lk 2:7). May the Infant Jesus, present in the Crib of your home, be the concrete sign of a sincere faith, which will enlighten, guide and direct your life and that of your dear ones."

Both Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis have continued the tradition that we are beginning this year!

All are invited to attend Lessons and Carols this December at St. John. Come and spend some time with us throughout Advent as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ.

As Christ came for all, each evening will represent and honor a different culture. Readings and Songs will be read and sung in the

native language of that particular evening.

December 9: French December 16: African December 23: English

Refreshments and fellowship will follow afterwards. *This is also a Deep Dive event for our Faith Formation families.

Throughout the Season of Advent, we have increased the availability of the Sacrament of Reconciliation in order that we may be better prepared for the arrival of the Christ Child at Christmas.

In additional to regular Saturday schedule, Reconciliation is available...

St. John Church Monday Evenings... 7 - 8 pm December 9th, 16th, 23rd

St. Mary Church Wednesday Evenings... 7 - 8 pm December 11th, 18th

welcome to the Collaborative Family

Heather Hannaway
Director of Faith Formation
hhannaway@chelmsfordcatholic.org

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

ST. MARY FAITH FORMATION • SCHEDULE and EVENTS

Upcoming Deep Dive Events



Lessons and Carols

Monday Evenings: December 9, 16 and 23* 7:00 pm at St. John Church

Lessons and Carols is a prayer service of Scripture and song. Originating in England in the late 19th century, Lessons and Carols was originally conducted on Christmas Eve and consisted of exactly nine Lessons. It has since been adapted and can be found being celebrated throughout Advent with a variable number of Lessons. Regardless of the number of Lessons or when in the season leading up to Christmas it is observed, a Lessons and Carols service will focus on the mystery of the Incarnation and its role in salvation history. As Christ came for all, each evening will represent and honor a different culture each of the four evenings. Readings and Songs will be read and sung in the native language of that particular evening.

• December 9: French • December 16: African • December 23: English •

*You only need to attend one to fulfill the Deep Dive obligation, but feel free to attend all!

Completion of a reflection sheet is REQUIRED for ALL deep dives. Downloadable or online reflection can be found on website as part of the specific deep dive page.

www.chelmsfordcatholic.org

Deep Dive Calendars can be found on our website Faith Formation/Family Faith Formation/Calendars and Schedules

All Deep Dive details can be found on our website
Faith Formation/Family Faith Formation/ Deep Dives (choose deep dive)

Full Class Schedule can be found on our website
Faith Formation/Family Faith Formation/Calendars and Schedules



The interactive Family Gathering sessions this month will be centered around the story of the Christmas miracle of Jonathan Toomey, festive food, small group discussion and make-and-take projects.

December 8th Family Gathering Sessions In the Parish Hall

GRADE 1 FGS: GROUP A9:00 - 10:30 am

GRADE 2 FGS: GROUP B 11:00 am - 12:30 pm

GRADE 3 FGS: GROUP A9:00 - 10:30 gm

GRADE 3 FGS: GROUP B 11:00 cm - 12:30 pm

GRADE 4 FGS, GROUP A 9:00 - 10:30 gm **GRADE 4 FGS, GROUP B** 11:00 am - 12:30 pm

9:00 - 10:30 am

GRADE 5 FGS, GROUP B 11:00 gm - 12:30 pm

9:00 - 10:30 am

GRADE 6 FGS, GROUP B 11:00 am - 12:30 pm

CONFIRMATION II: 4:15 - 5:45 pm Hall

December 15th Family Gathering Sessions In the Parish Hall

GRADE 1 FGS, GROUP C 9:00 - 10:30 am

GRADE 2 FGS, GROUP D 11:00 am - 12:30 pm

GRADE 3 FGS: GROUP C 9:00 - 10:30 am

GRADE 3 FGS, GROUP D 11:00 am - 12:30 pm

GRADE 4 FGS, GROUP C 9:00 - 10:30 am **GRADE 4 FGS, GROUP D** 11:00 am - 12:30 pm

GRADE 5 FGS, GROUP C 9:00 - 10:30 am

GRADE 5, GROUP D11:00 am - 12:30 pm

GRADE 6 FGS, GROUP C 9:00 - 10:30 am

GRADE 6 FGS, GROUP D 11:00 am - 12:30 pm

CONFIRMATION I: 4:15 - 5:45 pm Hall

Faith Formation Program

Alana Buckley Faith Formation Specialist alana@chelmsfordcatholic.org Lynn Anne LaDuke Faith Formation Coordinator lynnanne@chelmsfordcatholic.org Elaine Kindler Faith Formation Coordinator ekindler@chelmsfordcatholic.org

ST. JOHN FAITH FORMATION SCHEDULE AND EVENTS

Upcoming Deep Dive Events



Lessons and Carols

Monday Evenings: December 2, 9, 16 and 23* 7:00 pm at St. John Church

Lessons and Carols is a prayer service of Scripture and song. Originating in England in the late 19th century, Lessons and Carols was originally conducted on Christmas Eve and consisted of exactly nine Lessons. It has since been adapted and can be found being celebrated throughout Advent with a variable number of Lessons. Regardless of the number of Lessons or when in the season leading up to Christmas it is observed, a Lessons and Carols service will focus on the mystery of the Incarnation and its role in salvation history. As Christ came for all, each evening will represent and honor a different culture each of the four evenings. Readings and Songs will be read and sung in the native language of that particular evening.

- December 9: French •
- December 16: African December 23: English •

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December 8th Family Gathering Sessions In the Parish Hall

GRADE K FGS, GROUP A

9:45 - 11:15 am

GRADE 1 FGS, GROUP A 9:45 - 11:15 am

GRADE 2 FGS, GROUP A

9:45 - 11:15 am

GRADE 3 FGS, GROUP A 9:45 - 11:15 am

GRADE 4 FGS, GROUP A 9:45 - 11:15 am

GRADE 5 FGS, GROUP A

9:45 - 11:15 am

CONFIRMATION II: 11:30 am - 1:00 pm in

December 15th Family Gathering Sessions In the Parish Hall

GRADE K FGS, GROUP B

9:45 - 11:15 am

GRADE 1 FGS, GROUP B 9:45 - 11:15 am

GRADE 2 FGS, GROUP B

9:45 - 11:15 am

GRADE 3 FGS, GROUP B

9:45 - 11:15 am

GRADE 4 FGS, GROUP B

GRADE 5 FGS, GROUP B

9:45 - 11:15 am

9:45 - 11:15 am

CONFIRMATION II: 11:30 am - 1:00 pm in Parish Hall

follow us on Instagram



instagram.com/chelmsfordcatholic

Upcoming Deep Dives can be found on our Instagram page!

Youth Ministry

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

"You, dear young people, are not the future but the now of God."

~Pope Francis, World Youth Day Homily, Panama

The Chelmsford Catholic Collaborative's Youth Ministry program seeks to ensure that the young people of the Collaborative feel known, valued, and loved by God and by their parish community. By providing opportunities for youth to encounter Christ in their lives and connecting them with mature Christian mentors, youth ministry strives to equip and empower our young people to be lifelong disciples of Jesus.



Please signup 10 days PRIOR to your requested date by contacting Barbara at dwsmiths@comcast.net or (978) 649-6745. We meet in St. John's parking lot at 3:15 pm and arrive back by 7:30 pm.

RSVP by Wednesday, December 18th if you wish to serve Friday, December 27th

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity. -1Timothy 4:12

Catholic Heart Workcamp 2020 Theme: I AM

July 21-26, 2019 in North Haledon, New Jersey



I AM. These words can be found in the Bible hundreds of times. They refer to God, who is the Great I AM. These words can be found in the Bible hundreds of times. They refer to God, who is the Great I AM. Through all space and time, God continues to declare "I AM who I AM." God is not dead; He is not only the God of long ago. He is the God who will always live forever and ever, who is alive today and beckons us into relationship by reassuring us, "I AM who I AM." He is the God we meet in the Eucharist, in prayer, and in our service to His kingdom. We are pulled

in an overwhelming number of directions when trying to discover our identity. We seek belonging and purpose in so many places. Still, the fullness of our worth can only be found in one place. Our truest identity is being children of the Great I AM.

This summer, CHWC invites you to ask yourself the question: "Who am I?" Join us as we discover the answer to this question by encountering the great I AM through love, service, and connection to His people.

Deadline to sign up: February 1, 2020

Online Sign-ups available on our website. Choose Youth Ministry under the Faith Formation.

Click on Catholic Heart Work Camp from the left hand sidebar.

\$500 (\$100 non-refundable deposit due at registration)



The Chelmsford Catholic Collaborative would like to announce two upcoming ACTS® Retreats

Men's Retreat Weekend: February 13-16, 2020: contact Drew at andrewjubinville@verizon.net Women's Retreat Weekend: April 23-26, 2020: contact Beth at bjacavanco@comcast.net

The ACTS® Retreat is a three-day Catholic retreat that runs from Thursday evening and ends with Sunday morning Mass. It is based on the Gospels and teachings of the Church and provides retreatants with the opportunity to deepen their faith. The retreats are organized and facilitated by lay people in the collaborative. Please consider joining us for the weekend.



"The Lord's call is not an intrusion of God in our freedom; it is not a "cage" or a burden to be borne.

On the contrary, it is the loving initiative whereby God encounters us and invites us to be part
of a great undertaking. He opens before our eyes the horizon of a greater sea and an abundant catch."

-His Holiness, Pope Francis

CLERGY

Reverend Brian Mahoney, PASTOR
ext 215... fr.brian@chelmsfordcatholic.org
Reverend Corey Bassett-Tirrell, PAROCHIAL VICAR
ext 239... fr.corey@chelmsfordcatholic.org
Reverend Arnold Colletti, SR. PRIEST IN RESIDENCE
ext 221... frcolletti@chelmsfordcatholic.org
Andrew John Rondeili, SEMINARIAN
ext 228... andrewjohn@chelmsfordcatholic.org

BUSINESS OFFICE

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Tina Sousa, FINANCE & FACILITY SUPPORT
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FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

Heather Hannaway, DIRECTOR OF FAMILY FAITH FORMATION ext 226... hhannaway@chelmsfordcatholic.org

Courtney Callanan, Asst DIR OF FAITH FORMATION/ YOUTH MINISTER ext 227... ccallanan@chelmsfordcatholic.org

Alana Buckley, part-time FAITH FORMATION SPECIALIST ext 212, alana@chelmsfordcatholic.org

Lynn Anne LaDuke, FAITH FORMATION COORDINATOR ext 240... lynnanne@chelmsfordcatholic.org

MUSIC

Elaine Kindler, FAITH FORMATION COORDINATOR

ext 216... ekindler@chelmsfordcatholic.org

Jason Gaudette, DIRECTOR OF ST. JOHN MUSIC MINISTRIES ext 234... jay@chelmsfordcatholic.org

John Anthony Volpe, DIRECTOR OF ST. MARY MUSIC MINISTRIES ext 222... jvolpe@chelmsfordcatholic.org

ADMINISTRATIVE

Rae Russo, SCHEDULING COORDINATOR ext 325... rae@chelmsfordcatholic.org

Donna Gambon, part-time ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT ext 248... dgambon@chelmsfordcatholic.org

Sue Beechin, part-time ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT ext 236... sue@chelmsfordcatholic.org

FACILITIES

Dan Heider, FACILITIES MANAGER
ext 213... dheider@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 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 St. Mary Members Angela McMaster (co-chair) Peter Lando (co-chair) Mike Condor Laura Conte Scott Davidson **Rob Donnelly** Katrina Horan Karen Drake Beth Jacavanco Jessica Hägg Drew Jubinville Cathy Latina Ellen St. George Lori McDonald Augustine Tweneh Steve McMillan Ray Wagner (secretary) Alma (Chicki) Rigazio Paul Therrien

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 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.

From Our Pastor As I am writing this, it is still snowing, though not heavily at this moment,

but we have already been told that more, and heavier stuff, is coming. As a pastor I am always a little conflicted about snowstorms. Snow comes with a cost to the parish. The parking lots need to be plowed and the stairways and walkways must be shoveled. If the snow falls on a weekend we usually see reduced collections, and that money does not always get recouped. More importantly, of course, is that there are fewer people at Mass. Then, if the storm is bad enough, we become concerned about how we will get to the hospital or nursing home if an emergency arises and we have not been plowed out.

The conflict that arises for me is that I simply like snow. I have always liked snow, but even more so when I began to ski. The response people usually give me is that it is okay if it snows in the mountains, but just not here. However, the reality is that we need snow to prevent drought and other issues. Snow is actually necessary for us, even though it is also a big inconvenience at times.

It is so easy to be conflicted about things, particularly where our faith is concerned. We live in a world, a society, and a nation that has very different views than that of the Church. We live in a world that believes in situational ethics and relative truth. We live in a world that believes we can pick and choose whatever we want, according to what we determine to be right or wrong. The only criteria is that it does not hurt another person. We cannot criticize the choice of another because that means we are judging them; we are imposing our worldview upon the other, and that is the only thing that is not acceptable. If you tell someone they are wrong, then you are judging their worldview and saying yours is superior. You are belittling their way of living, acting, or embracing themselves.

It is *now* about each person embracing their own individual identity and sense of self. The only real evil and harm is preventing the individual from fully expressing their unique view of the world. And anything, as defined by me, that does not embrace their inclusive way of celebrating this uniqueness is harmful and damaging. Where there is no perceived harm, there is no foul. We simply need to live and let live. There is where harmony will be found.

The truth, of course, is very different. Our faith teaches us that truth comes from one place. Our true identity comes from one place. Our true sense of peace and happiness comes from one place, and it is not in

following my path. It is found in seeking and understanding the path of the Lord. The world is only concerned about 'the here and now'; Christianity is concerned about the long view—eternity.

The ultimate question we need to ask is, what is more important to me? Is my life more about the here and now and fitting into the worldview of life? Do I care more about what my neighbor thinks than about what God thinks? Do I believe what the world believes is true and right, and reject what the Church teaches because it is outdated?

One thing we should not feel conflicted about is the truth that Christ is coming into the world again. The simple truth is that we all will come face to face with the Lord at the end of our time. And, in that moment, Christ will *not* be concerned with what the world believed. Jesus will *not* be concerned if you upheld the way the world looked at the big questions. He will want to know if you were faithful to his teachings. Were you willing to take up your cross and follow Him? Were you willing to pay the cost of discipleship? And He told us the cost of discipleship: "I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing! There is a baptism with which I must be baptized, and how great is my anguish until it is accomplished! Do you think that I have come to establish peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather, division. From now on a household of five will be divided, three against two and two against three; a father will be divided against his son and a son against his father, a mother against her daughter and a daughter against her mother, a mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law."

Christ divides for the simple reason that there is only one truth. There is only one right way. There is only one way to truly embrace life and that is by following Jesus, for He told us, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." We must prepare ourselves for Christ's coming by simply being faithful to Him. But it comes with conflict. It comes with cost.

Are you ready to pay the price of true discipleship?

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,

To be

FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF ST JOHN MUSIC MINISTRIES JASON GAUDETTE

Winter is off to a mighty start here in New England. Although I enjoy the beauty of snow and the way it mutes both sound and color, this first storm does seem to be a bit much, and a bit early. The short days and long nights have grown cold, and the celebration of Thanksgiving has already given way to the hustle and bustle of a snowy December.

As we journey through our four weeks of Advent, the days will get shorter and the nights longer. The Earth's orbit is approaching the Winter Solstice: the maximum tilt of its axis away from the Sun. This gives us our shortest hours of daylight all year. It is the longest night.

On that very day, December 22nd, 2019, we will be celebrating the Fourth Week of Advent. It is an interesting contrast: the nights grow long and cold, yet we celebrate Gaudete Sunday and embrace the coming days. The Sun sits low in the sky and gives the fewest hours of light, yet we sing and pray about the coming of The Almighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. And in just two days after our 4th week of Advent, we celebrate His birth. The longest night turns into the growth of sunlight; after December 22nd, the days grow longer.

I love to watch for the growing displays of light as December advances. In homes and town squares, on rooftops and trees, lights just start to appear everywhere. The light reminds me that although it is dark, The Word Made Flesh is about to appear. The light of Jesus is about to shine on us. "Love, the Rose, is on the way."

Have a blessed Advent!

From Our Parochial VICAR Fr. Corey Basset-Tirrell

Let us pray.....

"The King shall come when morning dawns and light triumphant breaks; when beauty gilds the eastern hills and life to joy awakes. The King shall come when morning dawns and light and beauty brings; Hail Christ the Lord, thy people pray; Come quickly, King of Kings."

In 1939 as storm clouds of war gathered over the earth once again, civilization found itself in the abyss of uncertainty and fear. To assure his people and calm a nation staring in the face of unspeakable evil, His Majesty, George VI, King of the United Kingdom and Emperor of India, offered this reflection in his annual Christmas Address:

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown." And he replied: "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."

As we began Advent last Sunday, we again stood at the gate, for we entered a new year in the cycle of how the Church worships her Creator. We stood at the gate with much uncertainty ourselves. Maybe it is uncertainty with our own being, family, or friends. And, most certainly, the strain of evil in our world is just as prevalent now as ever before. The circumstances of the world today seem off-balance in many ways. But, as we stand at this gate, we do so waiting, watching...hoping. Watching so that we may be ready for when the King of Glory comes. Waiting for that King who will come in justice and mercy. And Hoping for the One who will deliver us from sin and death.

The weeks of Advent invoke the four facts most important to consider for spiritual maturity: Death, Judgment, Heaven and, yes, even Hell. The dissonance of a prematurely celebrated Christmas, and the crushing commercial mob can make it difficult to concentrate on these "Last Things", which help bring into perspective what this coming King means for us and the hope He brings. Without being able to fully absorb these things, how can we recognize our King when he comes?

Two Sundays ago, we declared that Christ is King of the Universe. Sovereign as He is over all things including our souls, it is nonetheless possible to shut our minds to Him by deceitfulness, and to turn our actions away from Him by selfishness. He is not an overbearing Lord who bludgeons us in our weakness, but rather, He is persistent in his lavish mercy and gentleness. Our Lord does not invade, but He does invite: Scripture tells us... "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me" (Revelation 3:20). In Advent, He awaits our invitation: "Come, Lord" (1 Corinthians 16:22).

We know how things turned out after 1939, but we do not know how they will unfold during this new liturgical year in 2019. But we do know this...as we wait, watch, and hope, Christ is there standing at the gate, hand outstretched, waiting for us.

In the final line of that poem delivered in Christmas 1939 by King George VI, we are told:

"So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night. And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East."

The Financial Page

Fiscal Year 2020 runs from July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020

Paul Firicano, Collaborative Business Manager ext 220 or pfiricano@chelmsfordcatholic.org



This week at all St. Mary Masses we will hear from a representative of the Little Sisters of the Poor. Together, with a diverse network of collaborators, they serve the elderly poor locally in Somerville, MA. They offer the needlest elderly of every race and religion a home where they are welcomed as Christ, cared for as family and accompanied with dignity until God calls them to Himself. For more information on the work that they do, please visit www.littlesistersofthepoorboston.org. A special second collection, following their presentation, will be taken up to support their work.

Due to an early submittal to the printer due to the Thanksgiving holiday, followed by some snowy New England weather, the collection figures for the weekend of November 23rd/24th, November 30th/December 1st and December 7th/8th will be posted in December 14th/15th bulletin.



Online Giving Programs: visit www.chelmsfordcatholic.org.

Links to both programs can be found on the right-hand side of home page.



A couple weeks ago, the Operating Budget for FY 2020 First Quarter ending September 30, 2019 for both parishes was published. Additionally, it was available as a handout following all Masses. If you did not see it, or would like to review again, or ANY previously published reports since the launch of our new site, they can be found on our website. Under the Stewardship tab, click on Financial Reports (the image to the right is what you will see). Simply click on the report you would like to view. We are working on putting all past reports, since the

St. John the Evangelist Parish Financial Reports

Operating Budget Report: FY2020: First Quarter ending September 30, 2019 Fiscal Year 2020 (July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020) Operating Budget Fiscal Year 2019: ending June 30, 2019 For the Nine Months ending March 31, 2019

St. Mary Parish Financial Reports

Operating Budget Report: FY2020: First Quarter ending September 30, 2019 Fiscal Year 2020 (July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020) Operating Budget Fiscal Year 2019: ending June 30, 2019 For the Nine Months ending March 31, 2019

inception of our Collaborative, on this page so all will be available for viewing.

If you have any issues viewing any of these reports, please contact Christine at ext 214.

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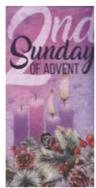
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Remember this:
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reap sparingly,
and whoever sows
generously will also
reap generously.
Each of you should
give what you
have decided in
your heart to give,
not reluctantly or
under compulsion,
for God loves a
cheerful giver.

2Corinthians 9:6-8

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 8, 2019



"What does it mean to be worthy? There are a few different ways to approach this question. Today's Gospel highlights two: the way of the Pharisees and the way of John the Baptist. Our faith values good works and discipleship. Perhaps, then, we "earn" our worth by adhering to the right

doctrines and following the right pious practice. The Pharisees thought they were worthy. Due to their religious pedigree and proper procedures, they were self-satisfied. John the Baptist's words to them are strong. "Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father." Of course, Jesus (and John) don't omit the responsibility for moral behavior. John gives the Pharisees quite a strong warning in that regard. "Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance ... every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."

It's a question of attitude. Of disposition. It's a matter of the heart. If anyone would be worthy in this scenario, it's John the Baptist. Jesus himself will name him the greatest of prophets and a great man. John, however, recognizes his own lowly place in the grand scheme of things. "The one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals." The Pharisees take pride in being "better" than others. John embraces humility in Christ being "better" than him. We don't self-generate our own worthiness. We receive it as a gift from God.

In a few short weeks, we'll celebrate the birth of Christ. Bishop Ven. Fulton Sheen wrote about the Nativity in his <u>Life of Christ</u>: "Because [Jesus] was born in a cave, all who wish to see Him must stoop. To stoop is the mark of humility. The proud refuse to stoop and, therefore, they miss divinity." God invites us to prepare our hearts this Advent. When you consider your own life, where are you looking for your worth? This Christmas, are you prepared to stoop?

CHELMSFORD RESIDENTS ONLY!

Boy Scout Troop 70 Christmas Tree Pick up

Pick up dates:

- December 28th
- January 4th
- January 5th
- January 11th

For more information and to register for a pick-up, visit www.troopseventy.com.



Chelmsford Catholic Collaborative Christmas Family Movie Night presents



Friday, December 20, 2019 7:00 - 9:00 pm St. John Church

Wear your PJ's • Bring a cozy blanket
Popcorn and drinks provided
Have fun with family and friends
Visit with St. Nick

In the Spirit of Giving, we will be accepting donations of new, white socks for both women and men in need.

~Thank you!



A WEEKEND FOR GOOD MARRIAGES TO BE EVEN BETTER!

Worldwide Marriage Encounter is designed to give married couples the opportunity to examine their lives together . . . a time to share their feelings, hopes,

disappointments, joys and frustrations . . . and to do so openly and honestly in a face-to-face, heart-to-heart encounter with the one person they have chosen to live with for the rest of their lives. The emphasis of the Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend is on communication between husband and wife, who spend a weekend together away from the distractions and tensions of everyday life, to concentrate on each other. It's not a retreat, nor a marriage clinic, nor group sensitivity. It's a unique approach aimed at revitalizing Christian Marriage. This is a time for you and your spouse to be alone together, to rediscover each other and together focus on your relationship for an entire weekend. Every marriage deserves that kind of attention! For more information, please call: 1-800-710-WWME, or visit the web site at www.wwmema.org.

~UPCOMING WEEKENDS~

March 13, 2020: Betania Retreat Center, Medway MA April 18, 2020: Brewster, MA June 5, 2020: Betania Retreat Center, Medway, MA September 11, 2020: Betania Retreat Center, Medway, MA October 16, 2020: TBD in New Hampshire

If you would like a more local resource, please feel free to contact St. John Parishioners Jerry and Julie Wright at (781) 249-3199 or Jerryjuliewright@gmail.com.

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

St. John

schedule your intention.

SAT, DEC 7 4:00 pm: For the People of the Parish SUN, DEC 8 8:30 am: Pat and Betty Ciampa: Memorial 10:30 am: Mary Moran: Memorial Tue, Dec 12 9:00 am: Robert Gosselin: Memorial SAT, DEC 14 4:00 pm: Richard DeFreitas: Memorial **SUN, DEC 15** 8:30 am: For the People of the Parish 10:30 am: Nicholas Denisevich: Memorial

St. Mary

SAT, DEC 7 4:00 pm: For the People of the Parish **SUN, DEC 8** 7:00 am: Marguerite Farley: Memorial 11:00 am: Carmen Stella: 7th Anniversary 6:00 pm: Renison and Polo Families: Memorial Mon, DEC 9 7:00 am: Carol Ann Sullivan: 5th Anniversary TUE, DEC 10 7:00 am: LIVING INTENTION: John Kelly WED, DEC 11 7:00 am: Eliseo Pena: 4th Anniversary FRI, DEC 13 7:00 am: Mary Perry, Eileen O'Loughlin and Pat Phaneuf: Memorial SAT, DEC 14 4:00 pm: Lillian and Raymond Rousseau: Memorial SUN, DEC 15 9:00 am: For the People of the Parish 11:00 am: Robin Mullin: Memorial

6:00 pm: Robert Hague: 31st Anniversary

FUNERALS recently celebrated

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

Victor Dolat: December 4 at St. Mary Maureen McKeown: December 7 at St. Mary

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





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ST. MARY MEMORIAL ALTAR FLOWERS

Parishioners invited donate a floral arrangement, to be displayed on the altar in memory of, or in honor of, a loved one. The requested donation for an arrangement is \$40, and includes an acknowledgement in the bulletin.

If you would like to donate altar flowers, please call the parish office.

ROSE FOR IFE

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. The suggested offering for a rose is \$5.00.

This week's St. John Rose for Life: Happy Birthday Tames P. Gilman

This week's St. Mary Rose for Life: Happy Birthday Wishes to Tessica Steele

Roses Provided by Mahoney's Garden Center

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

-Psalm 119:105

TUESDAY, DEC 10

Isaiah 40: 1-11 Psalm 96 Matthew 18: 12-14

THURSDAY, DEC 12

Judges 13: 2-7, 24-25 Psalm 71 Luke 1: 5-25

SATURDAY, DEC 14

Sirach 48: 1-4, 9-11 Psalm 80 Matthew 17: 9-13

MONDAY, DEC 9

Genesis 3: 9-15, 20 Psalm 98 Ephesians 1: 3-6, 11-12 Luke 1: 26-38

WEDNESDAY, DEC 11

Isaiah 40: 25-31 Psalm 103 Matthew 18: 28-30

FRIDAY, DEC 13

Isaiah 48: 17-19 Psalm 1 Matthew 11: 16-19

SUNDAY, DEC 15

Isaiah 35: 1-6, 10 Psalm 146 James 5: 7-10 Matthew 11: 2-11



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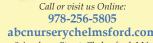
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Mary F. Moran Age 95, a 63-year resident of Chelmsford

Mary F. Moran, 95, a 63-year resident of Chelmsford, died Wednesday, October 16, 2019, in Chelmsford after a short illness. She is survived by her three loving sons, Sean and his wife, Karen, of Damariscotta, Maine, Robert and his wife, Maryellen, of Brookline, Massachusetts, and Neil, of Chelmsford. She was predeceased by her beloved husband, Joseph, with whom she shared 38 years of marriage.

Born in Madeira, Portugal, on January 28, 1924, Mary was the daughter of the late Antonio and Ludovina Jesus. Mary came to the United States as a baby and was raised in Dracut. She was educated in Dracut and Lowell, graduating from Keith Academy as Valedictorian and Lowell Commercial College.

Mary was a civilian employee of the Department of Defense, working at Fort Devens and Hanscom Air Force Base. She retired in 1988 with 17 years of service, having interrupted her government service to raise her three children.

Mary was a longtime, active member of St. John the Evangelist Church in North Chelmsford. For many years, she was an Eucharistic minister, distributing Holy Communion to parishioners at the church and residents of nursing homes, and a member of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, visiting and distributing food to needy parishioners. She also attended Mass daily.

As well as her parish activities, Mary was active in other community activities. She was a regular volunteer at the Chelmsford Senior Center Annual Blood Drive. Mary also was an active member and officer of the Chelmsford Emblem Club, assisting with the establishment of the Chelmsford Veterans Memorial Park. She was a former member of

Mount Pleasant Golf Club, where she met her husband in the mid-1950's.

Mary was a devoted Hockey and Baseball Mom, spending hours in cold hockey rinks and hot baseball fields watching her children's games. She never missed a game. She was also active herself in sports and hobbies: golfing, bowling, travelling, knitting, and braiding rugs. She particularly enjoyed her trips with her husband, Joe, to Ireland and Portugal. After her husband's death, she continued travelling, visiting Italy with a church group and Madeira with her brother, Joe, and his children. She was a big fan of the Boston Red Sox and looked forward to travelling to Florida for Spring Training.

A strong, intelligent, and independent woman, as a young woman, Mary bought a new Chrysler automobile in 1954 and that summer travelled cross country with her good friend, Mildred "Bing" Kinch. After the death of her husband in 1994, she lived by herself, together with her cat, in the same house they had bought in 1957 until her

Along with her children, Mary is survived by her five grandchildren, Brendan, Patrick, Kathleen, Scott, and Neil Moran, Jr., and one greatgrandson, Luke Yorba, along with several nephews and nieces. She was predeceased by her brothers, Antonio Jesus and Joseph Jesus, and her daughter-in-law, Suzanne (Nash) Moran.

Relatives and friends were invited to pay their respects from 3 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, October 22, 2019 at the DOLAN FUNERAL HOME, 106 MIDDLESEX STREET, CHELMSFORD, MA. Her funeral Mass was held on Wednesday, October 23, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. at St. John the Evangelist Church, 115 Middlesex Street, Chelmsford, MA. Burial followed at St. Patrick Cemetery in Lowell. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Mary's memory to the St. Vincent de Paul Society, St. John's Church, 115 Middlesex St., N. Chelmsford, MA 01863. Online guest book is available at www.dolanfuneralhome.com. ARRANGEMENTS BY DOLAN FUNERAL HOME 978-256-4040. DOLAN