



# 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](http://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**

## PARISH OFFICE HOURS

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

## WEEKEND MASS LIVESTREAM SCHEDULE

Saturday • 4:00 PM and Sunday • 11:00 AM

Click on St Mary Church LIVEVIEW from home page of website

Sunday • 8:30 AM

Click on St John Church LIVEVIEW from home page of website

## WEEKDAY MASS LIVESTREAM SCHEDULE

Monday - Friday • 9:00 AM

Click on St Mary Church LIVEVIEW from home page of website

## DAILY DEVOTIONS LIVESTREAM SCHEDULE

Refer to Page 2

## “OPEN CHURCH” HOURS

Both churches are closed until further notice as we take steps to fully disinfect both properties

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

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

## PRAYER LINE

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



# CHRIST IS RISEN!

*Christ IS TRULY Risen*



[facebook.com/ChelmsfordCath](https://facebook.com/ChelmsfordCath)



[twitter.com/ChelmsfordCath](https://twitter.com/ChelmsfordCath)

[instagram.com/chelmsfordcatholic](https://instagram.com/chelmsfordcatholic)

# Livestream Schedule

*St. Mary*

## **Easter Sunday, April 12**

Morning Prayer • 7:00 am  
Easter Sunday Liturgy • 11:00 am  
Rosary • 7:00 pm

## **Monday, April 13**

Morning Prayer • 7:00 am  
Daily Mass • 9:00 am  
Rosary • 7:00 pm

## **Tuesday, April 14**

Morning Prayer • 7:00 am  
Daily Mass • 9:00 am  
Rosary • 7:00 pm

## **Wednesday, April 15**

Morning Prayer • 7:00 am  
Daily Mass • 9:00 am  
Rosary • 7:00 pm

## **Thursday, April 16**

Morning Prayer • 7:00 am  
Daily Mass • 9:00 am  
Rosary • 7:00 pm

## **Friday, April 17**

Morning Prayer • 7:00 am  
Daily Mass • 9:00 am  
Rosary • 7:00 pm

## **Saturday, April 18**

Morning Prayer • 7:00 am  
Weekend Liturgy • 4:00 pm  
Rosary • 7:00 pm

## **Sunday, April 19**

Morning Prayer • 7:00 am  
Weekend Liturgy • 11:00 am  
Rosary • 7:00 pm

*St. John*

## **Easter Sunday, April 12**

Easter Sunday Liturgy • 8:30 am  
Daytime Prayer • 12 pm  
Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3:00 pm

## **Monday, April 13**

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

## **Tuesday, April 14**

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

## **Wednesday, April 15**

Daytime Prayer • 12 pm  
Holy Hour • 3:00 pm

## **Thursday, April 16**

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

## **Friday, April 17**

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

## **Saturday, April 18**

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

## **Sunday, April 19**

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

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

*Parking Lot Confessions*

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

## Vacation Bible Fun 2020 August 3rd - 7th

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

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

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

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

## WINE, WOMEN & WORD next Tuesday, April 14th via

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

This will be a time for us women to 'gather' together and simply touch base with each other, sharing what we are able about how we are doing during this difficult time.

To join the meeting, contact Peggy at [phasset99@gmail.com](mailto:phasset99@gmail.com) BEFORE next Monday, April 13th.



The Knights of Columbus, Bishop Ruocco Council is offering a single \$400 scholarship to one high-school senior, graduating student of the Chelmsford Catholic Collaborative that will be attending an accredited school or institution of higher education (2 or 4-year college or trade school) in the fall of 2020. This is one of the criteria to qualify for this award. Visit our website for further details....

## BE IN "THE KNOW" WITH



We continue to be barraged every day with new information about what is happening in the world around us, and we wonder... when will things get back to normal? Will they ever be normal again?

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

If you are not receiving these notifications, send an email to [christine@chelmsfordcatholic.org](mailto:christine@chelmsfordcatholic.org) with your first name, last name, which parish you are registered to, and your email. We'll get you set up immediately so you are in "THE KNOW". God Bless.

## Come to Christ by Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

Life is perhaps God's greatest gift to each of us. Without life, we would be unable to experience all the wonder of this world, the love of family and friends, and the joy that comes from using our talents and skills. Life itself is more profound a gift than we can even truly contemplate. On Easter, we celebrate life. For on this day, Jesus Christ conquered death and gave to us the chance for a life eternal. The wonder, love, and joy of this world does not have to end. Through a life in Jesus Christ, these emotions are heightened, and we find even greater fulfillment in this world...

*The Clergy and Staff of the Chelmsford Catholic Collaborative wish you and your loved ones not only a blessed and holy Easter Day, but a blessed and holy Easter Season! Christ is Risen!*

## St. Mary Offertory Summary FY 2020

The offertory is our main source of funds for paying our daily operating expenses. Please remember that your generous and consistent giving is needed and greatly appreciated.

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

	Weekend of April 4th/5th	Year-To-Date April 5th	Year-To-Date Average/Week
Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses	\$17,140	\$685,600	\$17,140
Actual Received	\$11,144	\$596,948	\$14,924
Shortfall/ Overage	-\$5,996	-\$88,652	-\$2,216

## St. John Offertory Summary FY 2020

The offertory is our main source of funds for paying our daily operating expenses. Please remember that your generous and consistent giving is needed and greatly appreciated.

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

	Weekend of April 4th/5th	Year-To-Date April 5th	Year-To-Date Average/Week
Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses	\$11,040	\$441,600	\$11,040
Actual Received	\$8,272	\$390,253	\$9,756
Shortfall/ Overage	-\$2,768	-\$51,437	-\$1,284

Thank you to all of you, whose donations to the St. John Grand Annual, total \$47,840... 95.68% of goal!



### ST. JOHN



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



- Visit our website at [www.chelmsfordcatholic.org](http://www.chelmsfordcatholic.org) and click on the Online Giving logo located in the right-hand sidebar on the homepage.  
Or scan the above QR code with your Android or iPhone. Open your camera app. Hold your device so that the QR code appears in the viewfinder and you will see a notification with a link. Click on the notification to open the link. You will be taken to the St. Mary Online Giving site on your phone.
- Click on 'Set up New Account'
- Set up your payment options, withdrawal dates, etc.
- If you prefer, there is a "Quick Give" option to make a one-time donation.

# YOU ARE THE KEY TO UNLOCKING OUR POTENTIAL\*

*\*having or showing the capacity to become or develop into something in the future.*

Who would have thought that we would be where we are today, with illness, fear and empty parking lots surrounding us. Who would have thought that we would ever be denied permission to visit our elder loved ones who are in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Who would have thought that we would be kept from being able to attend Mass and entering our churches!

Our potential to 'survive' this difficult time is awe-inspiring. We have come together in many different ways. We have not let social distancing bring us down into a pit of despair. Instead, we have lifted each other up, allowing hope and faith to blossom into something even bigger and better, showing us the great power of God in our lives. Although we are being denied much, we are being graced even more!

One of the many ways we are graced is in the financial support from our parish families. We continue to experience an incredible amount of generosity in a time when pockets are being picked with the threats of job loss and health costs. Again, it is nearly impossible to thank you enough for your faithfulness and dedication to God's work; but of course, necessary that we ask you to continue these selfless practices.



Archdiocese of Boston

In addition to the usual ways that we are receiving donations, the Archdiocese has implemented a program called **90 Days Now—For Your Parish**. This initiative was spear-headed by a lay-person concerned with the potential financial downfall of parishes due to the Mass suspension. It offers a simple and easy way to make a daily financial commitment—in addition to your weekly offertory

commitment—to your parish over the next 90 days, with the assurance that your contribution will remain IN your parish; no portion or percentage will be kept by the Archdiocese. Contributions will be immediately credited and direct-deposited into the parish bank account. The link to this site can be found on the home page of our website, and will be distributed in an upcoming Flocknote email (if you don't currently receive Flocknotes, please see page 3).

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

Whoever confers benefits will be amply enriched, and whoever refreshes others will be refreshed -Proverbs 11:25

*Things are different this year. All you have to do is turn on the news, drive down 495 at rush hour, or go grocery shopping in search of toilet paper, paper towels, Purell and/or cleaning supplies, and you will notice... something is definitely different!*

This 'different' is effecting us all, and in an attempt to ease the financial pain that the local parishes are experiencing, the Archdiocese is generously allowing the monies from the Easter Collection—traditionally earmarked for the Clergy Benefit Trust—to benefit the local parishes: for us, that is both St. Mary and St. John.

When sending in your Easter donation, please keep the following in mind:

- If you would like your Easter donation to benefit your parish, please write your check to either St. John or St. Mary, based on where you regularly worship.
- Any check written to the Clergy Benefit Trust will be sent to the Archdiocese to support that cause.
- Online giving options for both parishes are clearly labeled for your Easter donations to benefit your choice of beneficiary.

As always, we thank you for your support and presence in our faith community.

God Bless!

THIS YEAR'S  
*Easter*  
COLLECTION



# Family Faith Formation Program

Faith Formation Coordinators

Heather Hannaway  
Director of Faith Formation  
hhannaway@chelmsfordcatholic.org

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

Elaine Kindler  
ekindler@chelmsfordcatholic.org  
Lynn Anne LaDuke  
lynnanne@chelmsfordcatholic.org

## First Holy Communion

Following President Trump's directive to continue the practice of social distancing until April 30<sup>th</sup>, Governor Baker extended the stay-at-home advisory for Massachusetts until May 4<sup>th</sup>. Due to this, the following changes have been made regarding First Communion Interviews and First Communion Masses:

### St. John's:

**All previously scheduled First Communion Interviews and Masses have been cancelled.** At this time, no date has been determined for rescheduling of the celebration of First Communions. What we do know is that we will be celebrating as a single group at a Sunday morning Mass once we are able to come together again.

### St. Mary's:

**All previously scheduled First Communion Interviews have been cancelled.** A decision on First Holy Communions is pending as they are scheduled throughout the month of May.

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



## ST. JOHN FAITH FORMATION INTRODUCES

**ConnectNow**  
My Own Church

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

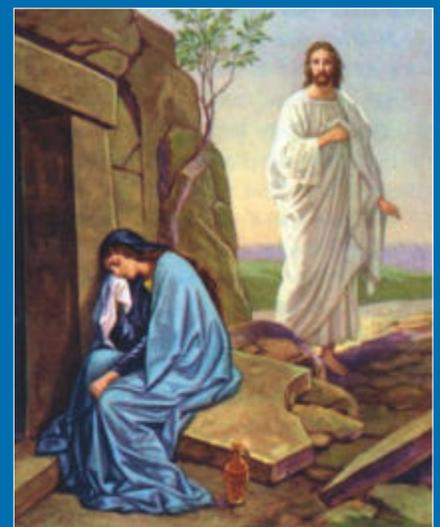
## Called by Name. Mary.

Even in the garden of the resurrection, Jesus goes unrecognized at first. The Gospel of John records a weeping woman, mistaking the risen savior for a gardener. Until, that is, she is called by name.

### Mary.

Robert. Catherine. Joanne. Steven. Hailey. Travis. Susan. Brian.

Jesus rises for you. He rises for me. He rises for each and every one of us. We are called by name in the garden of the resurrection. This Sunday, and every Sunday, whether we are worshipping together in church or via LIVESTREAM, Jesus comes to meet us. Imagine sitting with him. How is he looking at you? What do you say to him? When the resurrected Lord greets you with a smile, how do you respond?



## CLERGY

Reverend Brian Mahoney, PASTOR  
ext 215... [fr.brian@chelmsfordcatholic.org](mailto:fr.brian@chelmsfordcatholic.org)

Reverend Corey Bassett-Tirrell, PAROCHIAL VICAR  
ext 239... [fr.corey@chelmsfordcatholic.org](mailto:fr.corey@chelmsfordcatholic.org)

Reverend Arnold Colletti, SR. PRIEST IN RESIDENCE  
ext 221... [frcolletti@chelmsfordcatholic.org](mailto:frcolletti@chelmsfordcatholic.org)

Andrew John Rondelli, SEMINARIAN  
ext 228... [andrewjohn@chelmsfordcatholic.org](mailto:andrewjohn@chelmsfordcatholic.org)

Paul Firicano, COLLABORATIVE **BUSINESS OFFICE**

E BUSINESS MANAGER  
ext 220... [pfiricano@chelmsfordcatholic.org](mailto:pfiricano@chelmsfordcatholic.org)

Tina Sousa, FINANCE & FACILITY SUPPORT  
ext 219... [tsousa@chelmsfordcatholic.org](mailto:tsousa@chelmsfordcatholic.org)

## FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

Heather Hannaway, DIRECTOR OF FAMILY FAITH FORMATION  
ext 226... [hhannaway@chelmsfordcatholic.org](mailto:hhannaway@chelmsfordcatholic.org)

Courtney Callanan, ASST DIR OF FAITH FORMATION  
ext 227... [ccallanan@chelmsfordcatholic.org](mailto:ccallanan@chelmsfordcatholic.org)

Lynn Anne LaDuke, FAITH FORMATION COORDINATOR  
ext 240... [lynnanne@chelmsfordcatholic.org](mailto:lynnanne@chelmsfordcatholic.org)

Elaine Kindler, FAITH FORMATION COORDINATOR  
ext 216... [ekindler@chelmsfordcatholic.org](mailto:ekindler@chelmsfordcatholic.org)

## MUSIC

John Anthony Volpe, INTERIM DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES  
ext 222... [jvolpe@chelmsfordcatholic.org](mailto:jvolpe@chelmsfordcatholic.org)

## ADMINISTRATIVE

Rae Russo, SCHEDULING COORDINATOR  
ext 325... [rae@chelmsfordcatholic.org](mailto:rae@chelmsfordcatholic.org)

Donna Gambon, part-time ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT  
ext 248... [dgambon@chelmsfordcatholic.org](mailto:dgambon@chelmsfordcatholic.org)

Sue Beechin, part-time ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT  
ext 236... [sue@chelmsfordcatholic.org](mailto:sue@chelmsfordcatholic.org)

## FACILITIES

Dan Heider, FACILITIES MANAGER  
ext 213... [dheider@chelmsfordcatholic.org](mailto:dheider@chelmsfordcatholic.org)

## BULLETIN, WEBSITE, SOCIAL MEDIA

Christine Trznadel, COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR  
ext 214... [christine@chelmsfordcatholic.org](mailto: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](mailto:CollaborativePPC@chelmsfordcatholic.org)  
or 978-256-2374/ 978-251-8571, ext 145  
Current Council Members are ...

### St. John Members

Scott Davidson (co-chair)

Ray Wagner

Mike Condor

Katrina Horan

Beth Jacavano

Drew Jubinville

Angela McMaster

Ellen St. George

Delaney Schiefen (youth)

Augustine Tweneh

### St. Mary Members

Peter Lando (co-chair)

Laura Conte

Rob Donnelly

Karen Drake

Jessica Hägg

Matthew Kunze (youth)

Cathy Latina

Lori McDonald

Steve McMillan

Alma (Chicki) Rigazio

Paul Therrien

## ST. JOHN FINANCE COUNCIL

Finance matters concerning St. John's can be sent to:

[SJ.FC@chelmsfordcatholic.org](mailto:SJ.FC@chelmsfordcatholic.org)  
or 978-251-8571, ext 146

Current Council Members are ...

John Bagni

Paul Brzezanski

Jeff Brown

Celeste Dunn

Grace Ann Steed

## ST. MARY FINANCE COUNCIL

Finance matters concerning St. Mary's can be sent to:

[SM.FC@chelmsfordcatholic.org](mailto:SM.FC@chelmsfordcatholic.org)  
or 978-256-2374 ext 147

Current Council Members are ...

Armand DiLando

Jack Parsons

Paul Rigazio

Lauren Desforge

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](mailto: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

Christ is risen! Christ is truly risen! It is an amazing moment when you enter the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. As you enter the church, you see stairs on your right that go up to Golgotha where Christ was crucified. You are able to place your hand into the hole where the cross of Christ was placed. You might ask, how do they know that this is the exact location? Well, right below the Chapel of Crucifixion is another chapel, and there you can see a crack in the rock that could only have been made by an earthquake—just like the one described in the Gospels. As you move further through the church, you come to an ornate structure that was not quite so ornate at the time of Christ. It would have been part of a hill, having a grave hewed into the rock. It is now essentially a chapel that is in the middle of the church.

Entering into the grave of Christ I cannot help feeling the reality of the meaning of the empty tomb. The power of God's love is so transformative that it changes our rejection of Christ at Golgotha into the reality of the empty tomb. We come to this place most likely looking for something. And, like the disciples of old, what we discover is an empty tomb. In one sense there is nothing there, and yet, all the answers we are looking for can be found in that place.

The tomb is *not* simply about the fact that Christ was laid in that place. It is *not* simply about what happened when the women went to prepare his body and discovered that it was no longer there. It is *not* simply about the story that we tell each year, to remind ourselves that the tomb was found empty and the disciples were quite confused by this fact. They wondered who took him. They wondered where else He had been laid. They could not comprehend at first the reality of the empty tomb. They knew as surely as we do that when a person dies, that is it—they are dead.

But then the stories started coming out. Mary Magdalen had seen him. The women had encountered angels who spoke about his rising from the dead, asking them why they were looking for the living among the dead. The apostles began to have their own experiences of the risen Christ, and at first they did not understand what it all meant. It would take multiple moments before they realized that all Christ had spoken about was not just metaphor, but reality.

The empty tomb is a moment for us to encounter Christ. The reality is that we all build tombs for ourselves. We do it when we marginalize others, when we grow in pride, when we see the world as we believe it should be, when we choose *not* to love as Christ loves, and so forth. With

each sin, each attitude, and each desire fulfilled that is *not* about God, we deepen and widen our tomb. And the reality is that we can get more and more comfortable in it. The tomb we create becomes our norm of life and our reality, and yet Christ shows us the way out.

He calls to us. He beckons us out of the tomb as He did Lazarus, to encounter the power of God's transformative love. His disciples betrayed, rejected, denied, and abandoned Him. And this should have been the moment for God to say, "I have had enough of you—I am moving on." Rather, He said, "Now you will truly understand my love. I want you to truly live. And I will show you the way." Jesus died to himself and then rose from the dead—not in a figurative way but in reality. And it did not actually begin at the cross. It began at the Incarnation when Christ become one with us by uniting his divinity with our humanity.

*Christ Jesus, though He was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God—  
something to be grasped.  
Rather, He emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
coming in human likeness;  
and found human in appearance,  
He humbled himself,  
becoming obedient to the point of death,  
even death on a cross.*

Christ showed us the way to eternal life. He showed us the way of the empty tomb. What Christ has done we also must do. We must empty ourselves of all that is not of Jesus. We must seek that life centered in the will of the Father. We must recognize that our life in Christ is one of continual conversion. It is a life of daily dying to self in order to raise to new life in Christ. This is the way of the empty tomb. The empty tomb shows us the way to true life, true joy, true peace, true love.

He is truly risen! May we do the same!

Easter Blessings to all of you at this very difficult time.

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](mailto:fr.brian@chelmsfordcatholic.org).

Please keep me in your prayers.

In Christ,



My dear people,

FROM OUR PAROCHIAL VICAR

Fr. Corey Bassett-Tirrell

In this period of national and medical emergency, we find ourselves living in the midst of a time of great uncertainty and, dare I say, fear.

We have been shut in our homes, isolated, and quarantined, and we know not for how long this will last. For me, personally, I never would have guessed that I would go into my first Holy Week and Easter as a priest, physically disconnected from the faithful, and celebrating these hallowed days under such meagre conditions. My heart breaks that I cannot be with you all during these special and high holy days.

I have begun to look at my priesthood differently and more in depth. I must make a confession... my first nine months of priesthood were far more difficult for me than I ever would have imagined. This was not necessarily a bad thing, but I found myself struggling in growing into my priestly identity under the intense schedule that is part of our collaborative. It was a very difficult time for me, adjusting to a schedule that was completely foreign to the one I had grown accustomed to in the seminary.

As I may have mentioned before, I am an extrovert. Extremely so. I love being with people. It is hard for me to resist a gathering, a party, or an event. With the busyness of our schedule, I found myself being surrounded by people all day, but without the opportunity to connect with them on a deeper level, which is so important to me. To go through people like a conveyor belt was extremely unedifying and difficult. Going from one event to the next, to the next, to next, without more than a "Hello" or a "God Bless you" became incredibly isolating. I found it hard to get to know people under the strain of the "largeness" of everything in our Collaborative. After all, these are two, large, active, and busy parishes.

Fr. Brian has been tremendously supportive and helpful in guiding me to understand things in a larger picture. When December came around, I was not sure I was the right fit to serve this collaborative. But of late, something has changed in me. It happened without me almost not noticing it. In this time of quarantine, and with a lack of community celebration of the Mass, I have never felt more connected to each and every one of you and your prayers. While we cannot gather as a community, I feel more united in prayer and purpose with all of you than at any other time. In what is a less than an optimal time, and one of great uncertainty for many, I have never felt more pastorally connected to all of you dear people. This time has helped me recognize in greater clarity, our roles as priests.

The idea of a 'call to arms' has always been something that resonated with me. And now is a time to take stock of our busy lives, and determine what is a priority and what isn't. We now have a chance to reorient our lives to what matters. People, not things. Faith, family, and community. We can use this opportunity to reset ourselves to faith, family and community. To rediscover the institutions which have given meaning to mankind for generations, that right now, we so sadly are cut off from.

It is verily true that we don't know what we have until we are no longer able to access it. No one would ever imagine that during this great Lenten fast we would be enduring a Eucharistic fast as well. None of us could ever have imagined we would be giving up so much this Lent. But with the end of the Lenten fast comes Easter. Christ will rise and all will be well. There may be difficult days ahead, but we will prevail as people of Christ, and I have never been more honored and gifted to be one your priests. Sometimes it takes a crisis to take stock of what is important. And for me, the people of our parishes... that is what matters. Know that you are loved, and I can't wait to see everyone when it is deemed safe for all of us.

In closing I would like to share some of the words of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in the extraordinary address she gave to her nation on Palm Sunday evening. A remarkable woman is she, and at nearly 94. A steady figure of calm and perspective in what would otherwise be a chaotic and scary time, she said the following:

*"While we have faced challenges before, this one is different. This time we join with all nations across the globe in a common endeavour, using the great advances of science and our instinctive compassion to heal.*

*We will succeed - and that success will belong to every one of us.*

*We should take comfort that while we may have more still to endure, better days will return: we will be with our friends again; we will be with our families again; we will meet again."*

"We will meet again". God be praised and the Lord is truly risen! Bless all of you and let us remain united in our prayers for one another.

## And the People Stayed Home

A poem by Kitty O'Meara  
Inspired by the coronavirus pandemic

*And the people stayed home. And read books, and listened, and rested, and exercised, and made art, and played games, and learned new ways of being, and were still. And listened more deeply. Some meditated, some prayed, some danced. Some met their shadows. And the people began to think differently.*

*And the people healed. And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless, and heartless ways, the earth began to heal.*

*And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again, they grieved their losses, and made new choices, and dreamed new images, and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully, as they had been healed.*



*They found the stone  
rolled away from the tomb*

### *Being Troubled in Spirit*

-A Reflection by Peggy Hassett  
a St. John Parishioner

**John 13:21** <sup>21</sup>After he had said this, Jesus was troubled in spirit.

While reading the first ten words in John's Gospel 13:21 I was stopped with this thought. Jesus was troubled in spirit. I began to think of all that was ahead for Him and He knew it all. While in Israel, I visited Gethsemane, and thought of once reading "Jesus felt overwhelming sadness and anguish" saying "My soul is sorrowful even to death" at this time he asked "if possible, let this cup pass from me; yet, not as I will, but as you will." The humanity of Jesus called out to God, His Father, asking to be spared this suffering; yet the divinity of Jesus trusted His Father would be with Him in each and every moment. The apostles accompanying Him may have fallen asleep; but Jesus knew God was with Him. I think of all you, I and our world and what we are going through at this moment with this beyond frightening event. The days ahead are calling us for greater endurance, a deeper faith and trust than the world you and I know have ever needed before. This dangerous virus swirls around us like a violent storm at sea pouring waters of sorrow upon so many; so, we are called to walk closely with the One, who calms dependence on our God if it were not for us, our families, friends and our world being so tested with this nightmare experience. Our will and God-given intelligence may be at the helm of our individual ships; but the Divine Presence is the stronger force leading us to what is needed for the good of all mankind. Perhaps, beginning and during each day we, who are troubled in spirit, as Jesus once was, could offer a faith-filled prayer of hope, trust and a plea for guidance and direction, as we in our Holy Week remember resurrection's lesson that new life can rise from the darkened tomb of a frightening seemingly hopeless situation.

*Let everything that has breath praise God.*

*As you are social-distancing, is there a 'thought' that you would like to share with your parish family? If so, email it to [christine@chelmsfordcatholic.org](mailto:christine@chelmsfordcatholic.org). Let me know if in addition to publishing it in the bulletin, if I have your permission to share it via Flocknote. The faithful love and true peace of Christ is that which is prayed for all of you! If editing is required, I will send it to prior to publishing. Let us continue to pray for each other. God Bless!*



Paul A. Hardy, Jr.  
Owner & Family Director - Type 1

**BLAKE CHELMSFORD  
FUNERAL HOME**

Large, Modern Facility  
Off-Street Parking for 100+      Caring Professionals  
Family Owned & Operated



**BURIAL SERVICES · CREMATION SERVICES · PRE-NEED FUNERAL PLANNING**

**978.256.5251**

www.chelmsfordfuneralhome.com | 24 Worthen Street, Chelmsford, Massachusetts

**MILLTOWN**  
PLUMBING · HEATING · AC · DRAIN CLEANING

**(978) 654-6994**

<p>35 B Hunt Road Chelmsford, MA 01824 <b>978-256-8006</b> info@aplusautobody110.com aplusautobody110.com <small>RS#5270</small></p>	 <p><b>A+ Auto Body</b> <small>You crash it, we fix it</small></p> <p><b>車身修理</b> <b>Gary Yip</b> President</p>	<p>10 Wesley Street Chelmsford, MA 01824 <b>978-452-0602</b> gary@apluschelmsford.com apluschelmsford.com <small>RS#4515 Lic # 014253</small></p>
--	--	---

  
**DOLAN  
FUNERAL HOME**

**Active Supporters & Parishioners of the Chelmsford Catholic Collaborative**

Call us at **978-256-4040**  
**978-251-4041**

Or visit us at   
**www.dolanfuneralhome.com**

*Serving the Needs of the Families of the Chelmsford Catholic Collaborative*

**Life is a Celebration**

- Burial & Cremation
- Pre-Need Funeral Planning
- Catering Available
- Private Kitchenette for Immediate Family
- Personalized Options Available

**Funeral Directors**

Type 3 James F. Dolan & James F. Dolan II  
Type 6 Mike Law, Matthew Crowley & Dennis Graham

**106 MIDDLESEX ST.  
CHELMSFORD, MA**



**Joseph W. Chretien  
of Chelmsford, MA**

Mr. Joseph William Chretien of Chelmsford died Wednesday morning, February 5, 2020 at Palm Center of Chelmsford.

He was married to the late Mrs. Louise (Rivers) Chretien who died in 1996.

Born in Lowell, MA on August 26, 1926, the son of the late Charles and Rose (Reeves) Chretien. He was raised and educated in Lowell.

He served with the U.S. Army during WWII and Korea.

He was employed as a security guard in the Greater Lowell area.

He was a communicant of St. John the Evangelist Church of N. Chelmsford.

Mr. Chretien was a life member of VFW Post 662 in Lowell.

He is survived by a son, William C. Christian of Tyngsboro, MA, three step-sons, Ernest and his

wife, Perry Vachon of Andover, Raymond and his wife, Denise Vachon of Tyngsboro, Harvey and his wife, Michelle Vachon of Hudson, NH, his sister, Theresa, and two grandchildren, Peter and Matthew Vachon.

He was the brother of the late Roland Chretien.

Relatives and friends were respectfully invited to attend his calling hours on Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup> from 1-5pm at the DOLAN FUNERAL HOME, 106 MIDDLESEX ST., N. CHELMSFORD. His funeral was Monday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at 10am from the funeral home with a funeral Mass at 11am at St. John the Evangelist Church, 115 Middlesex St. N. Chelmsford. Interment was at Pine Ridge Cemetery, Chelmsford. Memorials in his name may be made to the Palm Center Patient Activity Fund, 40 Parkhurst Rd. Chelmsford, MA 01824. Online guest book is available at [www.dolanfuneralhome.com](http://www.dolanfuneralhome.com). **ARRANGEMENTS BY DOLAN FUNERAL HOME 978-256-4040.**

