



ST. JOHN
THE EVANGELIST PARISH
115 MIDDLESEX STREET
NORTH CHELMSFORD

ST. MARGARET
OF SCOTLAND PARISH
374 STEVENS STREET
LOWELL

ST. MARY PARISH
25 NORTH ROAD
CHELMSFORD



February 6, 2022

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

-Luke 5:5



Parish Office Location and Hours



115 Middlesex Street • North Chelmsford, 01863
(978) 251-8571/ 454-5143/ 256-2374
www.theholyrood.org

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday • 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Wednesday • 9:30 am - 5:00 pm

Friday • 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Weekend Mass Schedule

St. John • Saturday, 4 pm/ Sunday, 9:30 am and 6 pm

• African Liturgy, 12 pm: 2nd, 3rd, 4th Sundays

St. Margaret • Saturday, 4 pm/ Sunday, 7:30 and 10 am

St. Mary • Saturday, 4 pm/ Sunday, 7 and 11 am

Daily Mass Schedule

Monday - Friday

7 am at St. Mary • 8 am at St. Margaret • 9 am at St. John

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Monday • 4:30 - 5:30 pm • St. John

Tuesday • 4:30 - 5:30 pm • St. Margaret

Wednesday • 4:30 - 5:30 pm • St. Mary

Saturday • 11 am - 12 noon at St. Mary

• 1 pm - 2 pm at St. Margaret

• 3 pm - 3:45 pm at St. John

Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesdays • 8 am - 3 pm • St. Margaret Chapel

Thursdays • 12:00 - 9:00 pm • St. Mary Adoration Chapel

First Fridays • 3:00 - 9:00 pm • St. John OPC Chapel

LIVEVIEW Devotions

Monday - Friday

3 pm • Chaplet of Divine Mercy at St. John

7 pm • Rosary at St. Mary

Prayer Line

To have prayers said for yourself or a loved one, call the parish office and ask for ext. 223. After hours, press 5.

*Please read entire bulletin for potential schedule changes

weekly calendar

Monday, February 7

Bible Study • 10 am - 12 pm • via ZOOM
LIVEVIEW Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3 pm • St. John
Confession • 4:30 - 5:30 pm • St. John
SJE SVdP Meeting • 7- 9 pm • SJE OPC
LIVEVIEW Rosary • 7 pm • St. Mary

Tuesday, February 8

Coffee & Conversation, following 9 am Mass • SJE Hall
Blood Pressure Clinic, following 9 am Mass • SJE Hall
LIVEVIEW Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3 pm • St. John
Confession • 4:30 - 5:30 pm • St. Margaret of Scotland
St. Margaret Choir Rehearsal • 7 - 9 pm • SMS Church Choir Loft
Bible Study • 7 - 8:45 pm • SM PC Conf Room 1 or ZOOM
LIVEVIEW Rosary • 7 pm • St. Mary
Life in the Spirit Seminar • 7 pm • via ZOOM

Wednesday, February 9

Adoration • 9 am - 3 pm • St. Margaret Lady of Lourdes Chapel
LIVEVIEW Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3 pm • St. John
Confession • 4:30 - 5:30 pm • St. Mary
SM SVdP Meeting • 7 pm • SM PC Room 5
LIVEVIEW Rosary • 7 pm • St. Mary

Thursday, February 10

Charismatic Prayer Group • 10 am • via ZOOM
Rosary Making Group • 10:30 am - 12 pm • SM PC Conf Room 2
Adoration • 12 - 9 pm • SM PC Adoration Chapel
LIVEVIEW Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3 pm • St. John
BINGO • doors open 3:30 pm/ first game 6:45 pm • SJE Hall
LIVEVIEW Rosary • 7 pm • St. Mary

Friday, February 11

Knitting and Crocheting • 2 - 5 pm • SM Parish Hall
LIVEVIEW Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3 pm • St. John
LIVEVIEW Rosary • 7 pm • St. Mary

Saturday, February 12

Catholic Men's Group • 7:45 - 8:45 am • SM PC Conf Room 1
FF First Reconciliations • 9 - 10:30 am • St. Mary Church
SJE Prayer Shawl Ministry • 10:15 - 11:30 am • SJE Hall
FF First Reconciliations • 1 - 2:30 pm • St. John Church
Confessions

- 11 am - 12 noon at St. Mary
- 1 - 2 pm at St. Margaret of Scotland
- 3 - 3:45 pm at St. John the Evangelist

Hand Bell Choir Rehearsal • 2 - 3:30 pm • St. Mary Choir Loft

COVID + Reporting Protocols



We would like to say thank you to those who have informed us of their positive testing. It has helped us keep all our families informed and take any needed precautions. Please refer to the following Reporting Protocols:

If you test positive for COVID within 7 days of being in any of our buildings, please contact us at any of the following phone numbers. They will all connect you with our parish office:

(978) 251-8571
(978) 454-5143
(978) 256-2374

Please let us know the following:

- Date, Time and Location of Mass or event you attended
- Date you became symptomatic
- Date you tested positive
- In the case of Mass: Where were you seated?
- If you knew the people around you, have they been informed?
- Were you wearing a mask?

Additionally, the sooner we know of a positive result, the better opportunity we have to disinfect and mitigate the risk of spread.

These protocols can also be found on our website. www.theholyrood.org/covid19-updates

Thank you again for working with us as we all traverse this COVID-19 world together! God Bless!

Support Local Business



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Clergy

Reverend Brian Mahoney, PASTOR
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Reverend Fernando Ayala, PAROCHIAL VICAR
frfernando@theholyrood.org | (978) 401-9844

Reverend Arnold Colletti, SR. PRIEST IN RESIDENCE
frcolletti@theholyrood.org | ext 116

Reverend Raymond Benoit, SR. PRIEST IN RESIDENCE
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Deacon John C. Hunt, Jr., PERMANENT DEACON
deaconjohn@theholyrood.org | (978) 254-2696

Deacon Frank Perez de Alderete, PERMANENT DEACON
deaconfrank@theholyrood.org | (978) 633-5408

Deacon Barry V. Lloyd., SR. PERMANENT DEACON
deac5@comcast.net | (978) 454-6505

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Tina Sousa, FINANCE & FACILITY SUPPORT
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Facilities

Dan Heider, FACILITIES MANAGER
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Bulletin, Website, Social Media

Christine Trznadel, COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR
christine@theholyrood.org | (978) 254-4406

In order to promote communication and transparency throughout The Holy Rood Collaborative, you are encouraged to forward any comments and concerns you may have directly to our Parish Pastoral and Finance Councils.

Collaborative Parish Council

Parish Council matters can be sent to:
collaborativeppe@theholyrood.org

Scott Davidson (SJE) - Chair

Rob Donnelly (SM)

Hilde Gilman (SMS)

Beth Jacavano (SJE)

Cathy Latina (SM)

Ellen St. George (SJE)

Steve McMillan (SM)

Lorraine Freitas (SMS)

Chad Groenwoldt (SMS)

Drew Jubinville (SJE)

Lori McDonald (SM)

Paul Sneeringer (SMS)

St. John Finance Council

Finance matters concerning St. John can be sent to:
SJ.FC@theholyrood.org

Jeff Brown - Chair

John Bagni

Celeste Dunn

Paul Brzezinski

Grace Ann Steed

St. Margaret Finance Council

Finance matters concerning St. Margaret can be sent to:
SMS.FC@theholyrood.org

Robert Gilman - Chair

Thomas Kirwin

Marc Trudel

St. Mary Finance Council

Finance matters concerning St. Mary can be sent to:
SM.FC@theholyrood.org

Lauren Desforge - Chair

Armand DiLando

Paul Therrien

Ted Powers

Paul Rigazio

If you would like to submit a notice for the bulletin, please do so no later than 12 noon, **TWO** Fridays prior to the weekend in which you would like it published.

Email submittals to christine@theholyrood.org or mail to: Parish Offices at 115 Middlesex Street, North Chelmsford, MA, 01863, ATTN Christine. We will do our best to accommodate your request.

here's what's happening in The Holy



Men's ACTS Weekend April 22 - 24, 2022

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, strengthen their relationship with God, and develop a better understanding of how God is calling them to live their life. The Retreat Teams, which organize and facilitate the retreat weekend, are made up of lay people from our collaborative.

Registration Forms can be found in folders on the bulletin boards at the entrances at each of our churches. They can also be conveniently downloaded from our website: www.theholyrood.org/acts

Questions? Contact Jerry Wright at (781) 249-3199.

BAPTISM

We joyfully welcome the following children into our collaborative family. May the Lord continue to bless these children and their parents and fill their homes with the light of faith.

BAPTIZED AT ST. MARY

William Charles Cote
Charlie Cullen Durkin
Edward Parlee Hennigan
William Noah Salvador



BAPTIZED AT ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

Iremide Nathaniel Maselugbo
Shaelyn Therese Materazzo

Monthly Blood Pressure Clinics

Tuesday, February 8
Following 9 am Mass
St. John Parish Hall

Friday, February 18
Following 8 am Mass
St. Margaret Sacred Heart Hall



St. John Tuesday Morning Coffee Group



We are a group of men and women who gather together for fellowship following daily mass on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

Join us THIS TUESDAY, February 8th

tuesday night study

Ephesians: Discover your Inheritance

- Tuesday Evenings: 7 - 8:45 pm for 8 weeks
- February 22/ March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29/ April 5, 12
- St. Mary PC Conference Room 1 or via ZOOM
- **Register by February 19th**

Course Materials are to be ordered directly through Ascension Press. If you want to receive in time for the start of this study, we suggest ordering your materials **NO LATER THAN February 14th.**

REGISTRATION information

To review, register
and order materials
for this study, visit
our website at

www.theholyrood.org/bible-study

ST. JOHN'S



Beautification Offering

This offering funds the beautification of our Altar. Your voluntary donation can be accompanied by the request that it be "In Memory/Appreciation Of", or "For the Intentions Of" someone.

**Altevers Family • Mr and Mrs William Chase
Egan Family • Mr and Mrs Joseph Palermo Sr
Mr and Mrs Philip Viola**

Rood Collaborative community



SUMMER YOUTH EVENTS

Stay tuned for additional information!

Catholic Heart Work Camp **UPSIDE DOWN**

CATHOLIC HEART WORK CAMP 2022

July 17-23 • North Haledon, New Jersey

Jesus takes the world's view and turns it upside down.

Worldly authorities seek power, prestige, beauty and winning at all cost. Jesus' counter-cultural message however, is a call to turn the social ladder upside-down.

Scripture is filled with upside-down paradoxical statements.

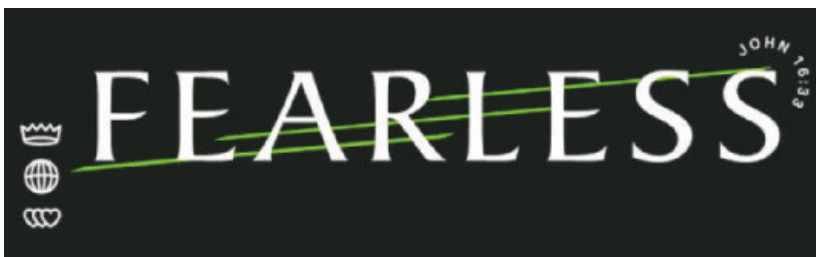
"In order to gain life you must lose it" or "God's power is made perfect in weakness." Jesus says, "Whoever wants to be first will be last and the servant of all in the kingdom of God." Mark 10:43 states whoever wants to become great must be a servant.

Jesus demonstrated radical opposition to the dominant culture by serving and making friends with those in need.

He was a servant who triumphed by losing. He traded victory and power for hanging out with the poor and forgiving his enemies. His approach is not measured by what people have but on what they give. God's ways are not our ways, they are better.

Join us this summer to further discover what God's' upside down approach to life looks like.

Steubenville East



July 29 - 31 • Springfield, Massachusetts

"I have told you this that you might have peace in me.
In the world, you will have trouble, but take courage,
I have conquered the world." -John 16: 33

St. Mary Parishioner Donna Robillard submitted an article a few months back, but edits were requested to be made. We recently received her re-write. How apropos that it arrived on the heels of his 60th anniversary!

Fr. Colletti: A Special Person

From 1947 to 1963 I attended St. Theresa's Church in Billerica. Important occasions occurred during that time... my brother John's First Communion and mine a year later; my sister Marilyn's wedding in 1950 and a year later my Confirmation.

When I was about 7-8 years old, I remember the beautiful gladiolas on the altar each week as Mass, the music, and the four or five older women, dressed in black, who all sat together in the same pew every week. At the time, it was a very small church.

In 1962, a new church was built on Boston Road. In the early 1960's the Pastor was Fr. McAndrew and his curate was none other than Fr. Arnold Colletti!

When it was announced at St. Mary 7 years ago at 7 am Mass that Fr. Arnold Colletti would be a Priest in Residence at our church, I was so surprised and happy. The next day, as I volunteered with a group of people, I told them that in 1962-63 Fr. Colletti served at St. Theresa's Church in Billerica. Within minutes, who walked in but Fr. Colletti! One of the volunteers told him my story and it was so nice to see him. I had not seen him since 1963! At that time he had black hair!

On June 8, 1963—58 years ago!—Fr. Colletti officiated at the marriage of Lou Robillard and Donna Strom. Sadly, my husband passed away in 2018. Fr. Colletti served at his Funeral Mass which meant so much to me and my family. For these reasons, this is why Fr. Colletti is a very special person to us!

We have truly been blessed.



The Church of God is Convoked in Synod

Pope Francis invites the entire Church to participate in a world-wide conversation. This concept is known as Synod. He wants to hear from the whole Church on how the Church can listen better.

What Does this all Mean?

Here in Boston, it means that we will be gathering, as parishes and as a diocese to pray together and to invite the Holy Spirit to help us to listen deeply to one another.

How Can we be Part of this Process?

We in The Holy Rood Collaborative will be taking a very active part of this process by gathering together to answer/discuss a handful of questions. In order to accommodate individual personality styles, there will be three options available to you take part in this process.

- **Small Group Gatherings:** no more than 5 per group: Must be formed by February 25.

If you are interested in leading or participating in a small group gathering, reach out to Sr. Lori at srlori@theholyrood.org or at (978) 251-8571/ 454-5143/ 256-2374 ext 235. There will be a format to follow, so no worries about having to do this all on your own.

- **Individual Surveys:** both hardcopy and online versions will be made available by March 1
- **Town Hall Meetings:** total of three, one in each church in early March

Although you may watch via LIVEVIEW, questions will not be able to be asked through this venue. If you want to be able to ask questions, you will be required to attend in-person.

Please be sure to note that the goal of this synod is not meant to be used as a platform to discuss the issues of the Church, but rather how the Church can better listen to her people.

All feedback received by April 1 will then be consolidated by our Parish Council and forwarded to the Archdiocese in time for the May 1 deadline.

Praying for Unity, Pray for the Synod

Being people of prayer, let us pray for the success of this synod, and all the people of God.



Heavenly Father,

as the Magi journeyed towards Bethlehem led by the star, so by your heavenly light, guide the Catholic Church to walk together with all Christians during this time of synod.

As the Magi were united in their worship of Christ,
lead us closer to your Son and to one another,
so that we become a sign of the unity
that you desire for your Church and the whole creation.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Just What is a Synod?

The word "synod" comes from the Greek *synados*, meaning "an assembly." Synods in the Catholic Church generally feature an assembly of bishops, who come together to assist the Holy Father in addressing the needs of the Church. The principle of synodality is defined specifically as "the actions of the Spirit in the communion of the Body of Christ and in the missionary journey of the People of God."

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Uniting the Heart of the Church with the



Heart of the Home

CLASS SCHEDULE

GRADES 1-6 SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6

St. Mary Session A
9:15 - 10:45 AM
St. Mary Parish Hall

St. John Session A
10:45 AM - 12:15 PM
St. John Parish Hall

St. Mary Session B
12:15 - 1:45 PM
St. Mary Parish Hall

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13

St. Margaret Session A
8:15 - 9:45 AM
Sacred Heart Hall

St. Mary Session C
9:15 - 10:45 AM
St. Mary Parish Hall

St. John Session B
10:45 AM - 12:15 PM
St. John Parish Hall

St. Mary Session D
12:15 - 1:45 PM
St. Mary Parish Hall

FIRST EUCHARIST PREP SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27

9:15 - 10:45 AM
St. Mary Parish Hall

GRADES 7-8 SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27

11:15 AM - 12:45 PM
St. Margaret
Sacred Heart Hall

CONFIRMATION I SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13

4:15 - 5:45 PM
St. John Parish Hall

CONFIRMATION II SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6 & 27

4:15 - 5:45 PM
St. John Parish Hall



SACRAMENTAL PAPERWORK

Due Sunday,
February 27

FEBRUARY DEEP DIVE

Family Lent Event with Reconciliation
Wednesday, February 23
6:30 - 8:00 pm ~ St. Margaret Church and Hall

P.L.A.N.S. FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

**PREPARE
TO LEARN
AWESOME!
new Stuff**

ALL FAMILIES...

should Pray together daily, Attend Mass weekly, Attend Class/Disciple Group Monthly, & Complete one Deep Dive per Month

GRADE 1-6 STUDENTS...

will be learning how to fully participate in Mass by using all five senses.

GRADE 7&8 STUDENTS...

will be completing Altaration: Session 5: The "why's" behind the "what's?"

CONFIRMATION I STUDENTS...

will be completing Chosen Lesson 7: Where am I going?

CONFIRMATION II STUDENTS...

will be completing Chosen Lesson 18: Are you Talking to Me? and Chosen Lesson 19: Who is Mary?

"The Lord has loved me so much; we must love everyone...we must be compassionate"

-Saint Josephine Bakhita

St. Vincent de Paul



ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT TO PARISHES OCTOBER 1, 2020 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

St. Mary St. Vincent de Paul Society

The members of the St. Mary St. Vincent de Paul Society present a summarized report to parishioners as follows:

Donations

Annual Collections/ Poor Boxes	\$20,613.00	55.7%
Cummings Foundation Grant	\$10,000.00	27.0%
District Reimbursement	\$ 800.00	2.2%
Individual Donations	\$ 5,620.00	15.1%
	\$37,033.00	100%

Disbursements

Rent/Lodging	\$ 5,421.00	18.3%
Heating Fuel	\$ 727.00	2.5%
Utilities	\$ 2,553.00	8.6%
Automotive	\$ 837.00	2.8%
Food	\$ 12,800.00	43.3%
Home Goods /Appliances	\$ 2,200.00	7.4%
Spirit Of Christmas	\$ 2,979.00	10.1%
Medical	\$ 600.00	2.1%
School supplies	\$ 1,000.00	3.4%
Other	\$ 446.00	1.5%
	\$ 29,563.00	100%

The Society received 33 requests from families and individuals for assistance and were able to help 63 adults and children this past year. As extra support in 2021 we provided grocery store gift cards to needy families during Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

We sincerely thank our parishioners for their generosity and request your continued financial support during the coming year by sending donations to the Parish Office. We are also grateful for parishioners' prayers and spiritual support as Society members continue to serve those in need in our St. Mary Parish community.

-Ray Gatti, President

St. John St. Vincent de Paul Society

Donations & Contributions

Envelopes/Online/Poor Box Collections	\$19,869
Fundraising Food Drive - January & April	\$3,496
Reimbursement from SVdP District Programs	\$1,675
Other- Misc. Receipts	\$562
Total income	\$25,602

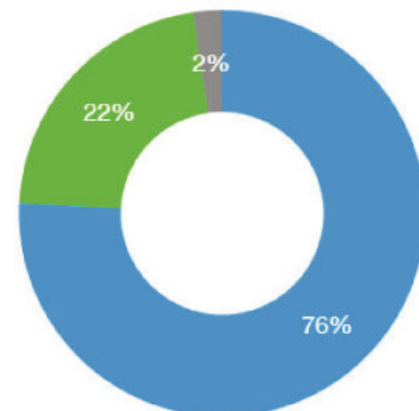
Expenses

Food, Automotive, Utilities, Clothing, Holiday Gift Cards, Tuition Sponsorships	\$12,170
Housing or Rental Assistance	\$3,521
Misc. - Annual Dues, Postage, Bank Fees	\$370
Total expenses	\$16,061

Visits and Services to People

33 Home Visits	260 People Helped
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Thanks to your generous donations, this is how we served those in need:



- Food, Automotive, Utilities, Clothing, Holiday Gift Cards, Tuition Scholarships
- Housing or Rental Assistance
- Misc. Annual Dues, Postage Bank Fees

The Financial Page

Fiscal Year 2021 runs from July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

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

To view this and ALL past financial reports,
click on the stewardship tab on our homepage,
www.theholyrood.org.

IMPORTANT DONATION REMINDER

When sending in checks, please make it payable to the specific parish—St. John the Evangelist, St. Margaret of Scotland or St. Mary—to which you are making your donation. As each parish maintains their own financial entity, checks made out to The Holy Rood Collaborative cannot be cashed as The Holy Rood Collaborative is NOT a financial entity.

ST. MARY WEEKLY OFFERTORY	Weekend of January 29/30	Fiscal Year-To-Date January 30th	Fiscal YTD Average/Week
Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses	\$15,000	\$465,000	\$15,000
Actual Received	\$13,412	\$439,905	\$14,190
Shortfall/ Overage	-\$1,588	-\$25,095	-\$810

ST. JOHN WEEKLY OFFERTORY	Weekend of January 29/30	Fiscal Year-To-Date January 30th	Fiscal YTD Average/Week
Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses	\$9,500	\$294,500	\$9,500
Actual Received	\$7,615	\$294,150	\$9,489
Shortfall/ Overage	-\$1,885	-\$350	-\$11

ST. MARGARET WEEKLY OFFERTORY	Weekend of January 29/30	Fiscal Year-To-Date January 30th	Fiscal YTD Average/Week
Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses	\$5,550	\$172,050	\$5,550
Actual Received	\$2,197	\$130,871	\$4,222
Shortfall/ Overage	-\$3,353	-\$41,179	-\$1,328

GRAND ANNUAL AS OF JANUARY 30

	Goal	Raised	%age of Goal
St. Mary	\$90,000	\$63,457	70.51%
St. John	\$78,000	\$32,939	42.23%
St. Margaret	\$85,000	\$38,246	45.00%

THANK
you
FOR YOUR SUPPORT



Visit our website and click on the WeShare logo located at the bottom of the homepage, or simply scan this QR code with your Android or iPhone.



Visit our website and click on the Online Giving logo located at the bottom of the homepage, or simply scan this QR code with your Android or iPhone.



Visit our website and click on the VANCO logo located at the bottom of the homepage, or simply scan this QR code with your Android or iPhone.



Shortly after I experienced the death of my friend, Fr. Steve, another important person in my life passed away. Her name is Carole Crino. I met Carole about twenty-four years ago at Saint

John the Evangelist Church in Wellesley—my first assignment as a priest. After meeting me for the first time in the confessional, she decided to come to me for spiritual direction. She told me later that she thought our relationship would not last very long. Well, Carol did not get that quite right. I felt privileged to speak at her funeral, and one of the things I spoke about was Carole's love for icons. Overtime she had become self-taught about all the details and intricacies concerning the making of icons.

One of the things many people do not realize when they look at an icon is that icons are not considered to be painted: rather, they are written. Every aspect of an icon has some unique theological meaning to it. It is not simply the picture that is portrayed, but the types of paint, the colors, the symbols used, the brush strokes and how they are applied, and so forth. As a person writes an icon, they say prayers that are attached to each action they take. The very process of writing an icon takes time, precision, and a really deep faith. Ultimately, when the icon is finished, it is not simply about viewing a particular picture; rather, the whole picture is considered to be a theological symbol. The word 'symbol' in this context does not generally have the same meaning that we give it in English. Instead, the word symbol, as it relates to icons, means that it makes present what it is representing. So, as one looks at and prays through the icon, the very theological truths it is conveying are made present to that person.

As I continued preaching, I explained that in many ways Carole's life was lived as an icon: in a sense she wrote an icon through her words and actions. She was a very simple person but, at the same time, also complicated. Carole was someone who had a deep and abiding faith, and yet struggled with her belief. Much of this had to do with her childhood. She would say to me that she did not believe in God, and yet tell me that when she went to receive the Eucharist she never doubted the true presence of Christ. She said it was always a powerful experience of knowing God's presence in her life.

She was someone who did not want to be noticed; she wanted to live her faith unrecognized. But, her level of charity, kindness, care and concern for others forced her to be there for them. People would tell her what a great Christian she was, and that they sensed a holiness about her. This would

inevitably upset her and she would tell me, "People do not see the real me." My response was always the same (and it did tend to irritate her), "If it looks like a duck and quacks like a duck, then it's a duck."

I do not want to portray Carole as a living saint; she could be difficult and at times irascible. She also could have a real temper, particularly if she felt a true injustice had occurred. However, she was always remorseful if she felt she had harmed another person. She deeply loved her deceased husband, Dick, but when he was alive they could well get into it at times. Nonetheless, she adored her husband and her children, and despite her traumatic childhood she learned to be good wife and mother. If you went to her house for dinner, she was the definition of hospitality. She was gracious and kind, and you were made to feel part of the family the minute you walked through the door. She was also a very good cook: the food was always superb and bountiful.

Carole's life was about writing a true icon and the picture that emerges is that of Christ. All her protestations in her belief about how she lived her life belied the truth of where her heart truly was: it was *always* with Jesus.

What was true of Carole's life—of the icon that she wrote—must be true of ours also. Our words and actions are our way of writing our icon. We must become the icon of Christ. Our lives must be a true symbol of Christ. Our lives must make Christ present to the world. The world must be able to see Christ through us. If Jesus cannot be seen through us, then through whom *will* He be seen? As Saint Paul wrote to the Romans and, therefore, to us, "For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. But how can they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how can they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone to preach?"

Our preaching is not simply about our words but, rather, about the life we live. As Saint Francis is reputed to have said, "Preach the Gospel, and when necessary, use words." Christ must be seen and that is only possible through the life we choose to live. We must write an icon of Christ through how we live our lives. At the end of our life, we will show to the Father one of two icons—either an icon of ourselves or an icon of Christ.

Which icon will you choose to write with your life?

If you have any questions about anything, please do not hesitate to ask me directly, or send your questions to me at fr.brian@theholyrood.org.

Please keep me in your prayers.

From our Director of Faith Formation

Heather Hannaway

Discerning Care

In the parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus tells us that when the Samaritan found the man who had been assaulted, he bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine, then brought him to a place where he could recover (Luke 10:34).

One of the glories of our Catholic tradition is the many institutions founded over the centuries to care for the sick. Heroic women and men have dedicated their entire lives to caring for the sick and elderly, and it may be that God is calling you to such a vocation. That is not the path for most of us, but we all should be concerned about healthcare in our nation. As Catholics we should do what we can to further just policies and assist our own Catholic hospitals and convalescent homes.

St. John Paul II reminds us that institutional solutions are not enough. As he recovered from the attempt on his life, the Pope wrote a moving exhortation on the meaning of human suffering, *Salvifici Doloris*. In that remarkable document he wrote, “The institutions are very important and indispensable; nevertheless, no institution can by itself replace the human heart, human compassion, human love or human initiative, when it is a question of dealing with the sufferings of another” (SD 29). During his own recovery, the Holy Father noticed that often doctors talked about his “case” in front of him, without including him in the conversation. They were no doubt very professional, but John Paul recognized how important it is for the patient to feel that he or she is more than just “a case”.

Visiting the sick is a work of mercy that calls for special discernment. Illness isolates people, and visits and cards remind them that they are not alone. But we must also be sensitive to individual needs: some people prefer privacy when they are unwell. We need to be humble enough to ask those who are sick what help they may need or want. We should regularly pray for those who are sick and for the light of the Holy Spirit to know how best to serve their needs.

We should be mindful of people who have no friends or family at hand. If we notice that someone we usually see at church has not been around, perhaps a discrete contact is in order. Reach out with a card, a reassuring word, or offer a prayer for them.

We should also not neglect the immeasurable gifts of the sacraments. So few of us even think to have a priest anoint us or a loved one who is sick, or to suggest to a Catholic friend or a neighbor to seek out the supernatural grace dispensed through the sacrament. Reach out and see if it is possible to have someone bring Holy Communion to those who are not able to come to church, or perhaps consider volunteering for this wonderful ministry yourself.

We are told in the Book of Sirach: “Do not shrink from visiting a sick person, because for such deeds you will be loved” (Sir 7:35). The Good Samaritan gave the unfortunate man soothing medicine, and discerning care for others is Christ’s prescription, too.

From our Parochial Vicar

Fr. Fernando Ayala

A while ago, Philia, a high-schooler from a particularly dangerous school due to its location, was assaulted on her way back home. Walking along the sidewalk, she felt a sharp object being pinned against her back; “Give me all you have,” she hears from what seems to be another student. It was Storgos, another student from humanities class. Philia quickly does what he asks and Storgos leaves with all her belongings.

Now, about a week later, Philia, getting on her bus to go to Church, sees someone getting kicked off because he could not pay the bus fee. Philia’s reaction was to approach the bus driver and say that she will pay the fee. Are you sure? the bus driver asked; Philia, looking at the person being kicked off, realizes that it is Storgos. Are you sure? repeated the bus driver. Yes, responded Philia.

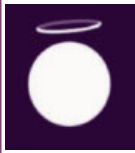
About a month later, Philia was going back to Church when, low and behold, one of the new ushers was Storgos. They talked and Storgos apologized for having assaulted her, and he mentioned how that time on the bus really changed him. He said he can pay her back in full.

This, of course, is not a real story but a fictional one. However, it illustrates a story of the virtue of love, even in the midst of difficult times—even when we feel like we are being pinned against the wall with sharp sufferings. Storgos, whose name means love of family, was touched by the actions of Philia, whose name means love of friends.

This weekend’s reading from St. Paul tells us that the most important of all virtues is love. We could have all other virtues and gifts but if we have no love, our efforts will be in vain.

- Do we practice Philia’s love, even when we feel assaulted by life itself?
- Do we practice the love of family, that being Church, siblings and parents?
- But most importantly, do we turn these loves into Agape, which is the Love of God—
 - A love so powerful that it moves you to sacrifice yourself for the good of others?
 - Becoming the usher for others to experience this same type of love?

Apps Worth Checking Out!



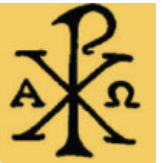
Unlock over 500 prayers and meditations on finding calm, growing in humility, re-discovering the Saints, and falling asleep to Scripture with **Hallow**. This is monthly or annual subscription. Before you buy, try them out by taking advantage of their 14-day free trial.



The **iBreviary** is your portable breviary. You can use it to pray with the full texts of the Liturgy of the Hours in just five languages. Simply launch the application and all the texts of the day will appear before you.



Pray As You Go is a daily prayer session, based on Ignatian Spirituality, designed to go with you wherever you go, to help you pray whenever you find time, but while travelling to and from work, study, etc. A new prayer session is produced every day of the working week and one session for the weekend. It is not a 'Thought for the Day', a sermon or a bible-study, but rather a framework for your own prayer. Lasting between ten and thirteen minutes, it combines music, scripture and some questions for reflection.



Laudette is the most comprehensive Catholic App. Daily Mass readings, interactive rosary, multiple stations of the cross, New American bible, to name a few!



The **3-Minute Retreat** offers a peaceful prayer experience that helps you re-connect with God, re-center your day, and relax your spirit and soul, wherever you are. Every day the app guides you on a new bite-sized retreat filled with Scripture passages, soothing music, and reflection questions that you can pray at your own pace.



Reimagining the Examen offers a unique prayer experience that's tailored to your needs and mood. Each Examen—based on St. Ignatius's 500-year-old prayer—guides you through a stimulating reflection on your day, helping you invite God into your nitty-gritty. Choose an Examen that matches your current state of being, or pray that day's scheduled reflection.



Catholic Trivia (GooglePlay only): How much do you know about your Catholic Faith and Catholic culture? Test your knowledge of the Catholic Church in the areas of: Art and Literature, Bible History, Liturgy and Customs, Saints and Personalities, Theology.



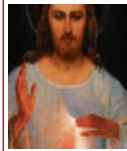
My Catholic Life offers daily reflections that share the beauty and splendor of the Catholic faith. It presents our beautiful faith in a practical and personal way, while remaining true to Church teachings. It's perfect for those who are interested in growing deeper in their faith, for new converts, for those seeking more in life, or for those asking some of life's most difficult questions.



Prepare to Experience the New Testament Like Never Before! The **Truth and Life Dramatized Audio Bible™** New Testament is a celebrity-voiced "radio drama" of the entire RSV-CE New Testament. More than 70 actors help bring the scriptures to life in this 22-hour audio production, complete with movie-quality sound effects and an original music score.



iPieta contains Catholic documents, teachings, writings, prayers, and liturgical calendars.



The **Divine Mercy** app offers the complete Divine Mercy message and devotion in easy to navigate format.



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Through this personal and intimate forum, hope is rekindled, marriages are saved, souls draw closer to Christ and His Church, and the Truth sets many free.



MAGNIFICAT puts at your fingertips a treasury of beautiful prayers. Each day offers the official texts of Mass, prayers for morning and evening, and meditations drawn from the best writings of both Church Fathers and more recent spiritual masters, with inspiring profiles of saints.

Archdiocesan happenings



We are looking for your help inviting men to this retreat weekend. To recommend men for this retreat, fill out the online form that can be found at <https://tinyurl@rcab.org>—a direct link can also be found on our website: www.theholyrood.org/come-and-see-weekend—or you can use the QR code to the left.

Come and See Weekend

**EXPERIENCE AN OVERNIGHT
WEEKEND PRIESTLY IMMERSION IN
A PARISH—PRAY, LEARN, ASK
QUESTIONS, MEET SEMINARIANS &
PRIESTS, HAVE FUN, GET TO KNOW
OTHER LOCAL CATHOLIC MEN LIKE
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National Marriage Week
February 7-14

National Marriage Week begins this Monday and includes World Marriage Sunday on February 13 and this year's theme is...

Called to the Joy of Love

Taking the time to invest in your marriage is extremely important. The health of your relationship impacts your happiness and the well-being of any children. So, whether things are going well and you're just looking for an enriching experience or if you're having difficulties and are looking for help, we recommend you checking out:

www.bostoncatholic.org/familylife/marriage-enrichment

local community events

St. Mark's
Chocolate Festival TO GO!

St. Mark's in Westford has been hosting a Chocolate Festival for over 25 years to raise money for the Westford and Lowell food pantries.

Due to COVID, orders are to be placed via an online by visiting www.st-mark.org/chocolate then picked up on Saturday, February 12 between the hours of 1 - 4 pm at...

St. Mark's Church • 75 Cold Spring Road • Westford

Each 4"x 8" x 8" box is filled with the homemade chocolate desserts that are sure to satisfy your chocolate cravings! Order yours TODAY!





Mass Intentions

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 intention is requested when you schedule your intention.

St. John the Evangelist

SAT, FEB 5	4:00 pm:	Debi Leavis: 3rd Anniversary Gamache Family: Memorial
SUN, FEB 6	9:30 am:	Stephen Gadbois: 1st Anniversary Frances and John Shaughnessy: Memorial Mauricio Valencia: Memorial
	6:00 pm:	People of the Parish
MON, FEB 7	9:00 am:	Members of The Holy Rood Collaborative Spiritual Society & Renewal/Renovation Fund
TUE, FEB 8	9:00 am:	Robert Wright: Memorial
WED, FEB 9	9:00 am:	Edward Comeau: 16th Anniversary
THU, FEB 10	9:00 am:	Mary Moran: Birthday Memorial
FRI, FEB 11	9:00 am:	Lucielle Fortier: Memorial
SAT, FEB 12	4:00 pm:	People of the Parish
SUN, FEB 13	9:30 am:	Robert Cole: Memorial
	6:00 pm:	Paola D'Alfonso and Family: Memorial

St. Margaret of Scotland

SAT, FEB 5	4:00 pm:	Maurice Bergeron: 9th Anniversary
SUN, FEB 6	7:30 am:	People of the Parish
	10:00 am:	Edward Bucky Boehm: 6th Anniversary Daniel Boehm Sullivan: 23rd Anniversary Mary Boehm: 16th Anniversary Daniel Neveux: 33rd Anniversary Roland Neveux: 4th Anniversary Jerry Patel: Memorial
MON, FEB 7	9:00 am:	Clara Stupakewicz: 3rd Anniversary
WED, FEB 9	9:00 am:	Thomas Muldoon: 5th Anniversary
SAT, FEB 12	4:00 pm:	Francis LaPan: Memorial
SUN, FEB 13	7:30 am:	John E Roark Sr: Memorial
	10:00 am:	People of the Parish

St. Mary Parish

SAT, FEB 5	4:00 pm:	Raymond Anstiss, Sr: 12th Anniversary LIVING INTENTION: Happy 90th Birthday Paul Faber
SUN, FEB 6	7:00 am:	People of the Parish
	11:00 am:	Michael Slattery: 8th Anniversary Patrick Slattery: 7th Anniversary Katherine Taylor: 2nd Anniversary
MON, FEB 7	7:00 am:	Irene Gatti: 4th Anniversary
TUE, FEB 8	9:00 am:	James Cusick: Memorial
SAT, FEB 12	4:00 pm:	George Goguen: 11th Anniversary
SUN, FEB 13	7:00 am:	Marguerite Farley: Memorial
	11:00 am:	People of the Parish

Rose for Life



Is there someone special you'd like to honor? Consider having a rose signifying your intention placed at either St. John or St. Mary, as well as having your intention published in the bulletin. To book a Rose for Life, contact the parish office. The suggested offering is \$5.

This week's St. Mary Rose for Life:

[Ann Knower 103rd Birthday: Eternal Wishes](#)

St. Mary 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. The requested donation for an arrangement is \$40.

If you would like to donate altar flowers, call the parish office. Please note that we require a 2-week notice for your order.



St. Margaret Lamps

St. Margaret offers the opportunity to have one of three lamps in the church burn In Memory of a loved one. The stipend is \$25, and the dedication will be published in the weekly bulletin.

St. Margaret Bells



The steeple bells at St. Margaret toll daily at 12 noon and 6 pm, followed by the ringing of the Angelus bell and 2 hymns. At 3 pm, they play 2 hymns, and 15 minutes prior to each weekend Mass, the bells toll a 'call to worship.' If you would like to dedicate the Ringing of the Bells In Memory/In Honor of someone, please contact the parish offices. The stipend is \$25, and your dedication will be published in the weekly bulletin.

[Ronald and Daniel Neveux](#)

Funeral Recently Celebrated

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



Mary Jeffreys
Thursday, February 3 • St. Margaret

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-Mother Teresa
The Parlee Family

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Alison L. (Jensen) Johnston, beloved mother, 56, of Dracut passed away unexpectedly at Lowell General Hospital, on December 10, 2021, surrounded by her loving family. She was born on February 22, 1965 in Exeter, NH, the daughter of Eleanor E. (Flaherty) Jensen, and the late Richard W. Jensen. She was educated in the Billerica and Westford public schools, graduating from Westford Academy in 1983. She went on to further her education earning her nursing degree from Tewksbury Hospital School of Nursing. She went on to work at the Bedford VA Hospital, Middlesex County Hospital, and Lowell General Hospital.

Alison had a heart of gold, always worrying about others before herself. She will always be remembered for her loving and warm personality. She loved animals, spending time outside, and visiting the ocean.

She is survived by her husband Douglas S. Johnston Jr, of 26 years. She also leaves her four beloved children, Joshua W. Jensen and his partner Heather Rosie of Chicago, IL, Alec D. Johnston, Tyler A. Johnston, and Haileigh B.

Johnston all of Dracut.

She also leaves two sisters Sharon Poitras, and Virginia Battle; four brothers Richard Jensen, David Jensen, Kevin Jensen, and Walter Jensen, and many nieces, nephews and cousins. Alison was predeceased by her grandmother and bestfriend Virginia L. (Patenaude) Jensen.

Alison's visiting hours was Wednesday, December 15, 2021 from 3:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. Funeral was Thursday, December 16, 2021 at 10:00 A.M. from the DOLAN FUNERAL HOME, 106 MIDDLESEX ST. CHELMSFORD, with a funeral Mass at 11:00 A.M. at St. John the Evangelist Church in North Chelmsford, MA. Burial in Fairview Cemetery, North Chelmsford, MA. Memorials may be made in her name to the MSPCA at Nevins Farm of Methuen, MA. Online guest book is available at www.dolanfuneralhome.com.

ARRANGEMENTS BY DOLAN FUNERAL HOME 978-256-4040.

