The Holy Rood Collaborative

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

January 15, 2023
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Now I have seen
and testify that He is the Son of God.

- John 1:34

Parish Office Location and Hours

115 Middlesex Street • North Chelmsford, 01863
(978) 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, Sunday, 12 pm
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 (Sep-Jun) • 9 am - 3 pm • St. Margaret OLL 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, January 16

** PARISH OFFICES CLOSED **
Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3 pm • SJE Church and LIVEVIEW
Confession • 4:30 - 5:30 pm • SJE Church
KOC St. Joseph Prayer Service • 7 - 8:30 pm • SM Church
ACTS Core Meeting • 7 - 9 pm • SJE OPC
SM 4 pm Choir Rehearsal • 7:30 - 8:30pm • SM Hall

Tuesday, January 17

Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3 pm • SJE Church and LIVEVIEW
Confession • 4:30 - 5:30 pm • SMS Church
Wine Women and Word • 6:30 - 8 pm • SJE Mariotti
SMS Choir Rehearsal • 7 - 8:45 pm • SMS Choir Loft
Rosary • 7 pm • SM Church and LIVEVIEW
SM 11am Choir Rehearsal • 7:30 - 8:30pm • SM Church

Wednesday, January 18

Adoration • 9 am - 3 pm • SMS OLL Chapel
Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3 pm • SJE Church and LIVEVIEW
Confession • 4:30 - 5:30 pm • SM Church
Collaborative Patron Saints FF Event • 6:30 - 8 pm • SMS Hall
Rosary • 7 pm • SM Church and LIVEVIEW

Thursday, January 19

Charismatic Prayer Group • 10-11 am • SJE OPC
Rosary Makers • 10:30 am - 12 pm • SM PC Conf Room 2
Adoration • 12 - 9 pm • SM PC Adoration Chapel
Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3 pm • SJE Church and LIVEVIEW
BINGO • doors open 3:30 pm/ first game 6:45 pm • SJE Hall
Rosary • 7 pm • SM Church and LIVEVIEW

Friday, January 20

Blood Pressure Clinic, following 8 am Mass • SMS Hall
Knitting and Crocheting • 2 - 4 pm • SM Hall
Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3 pm • SJE Church and LIVEVIEW
Rosary • 7 pm • SM Church and LIVEVIEW

Saturday, January 21

Saturday Men • 7 - 8:45 am • SJE NPC
Men of St. Joseph • 8 - 9 am • SMS SVdP Room
First Reconciliations • 9 - 10:30 am • SM Church
Contemplative Prayer • 9:30 - 11am • SJE Linehan
SJE Hospitality Meeting • 9:30 - 12 pm • SJE Hall
First Reconciliations • 1 - 2:15 pm • SJE Church
Confessions • 11 am - 12 pm: SM | 1 - 2 pm: SMS | 3 - 3:45 pm: SJE
St. Mary Bell Choir Rehearsal • 2:30 - 3:30 pm • SM Choir Loft
Faith and Family Gathering • 5 - 7pm • SJE Hall

In Honor of the Martin Luther King Holiday the parish offices will be closed on Monday, January 16

Blood Pressure clinic

Faith Community Nursing

Friday, January 20 following 8 am Mass
St. Margaret Sacred Heart Hall

The purpose of this ministry is to play a role in leading women to a more authentic and loving relationship with Christ. A wonderful benefit of this ministry is women forming new and authentic friendships with each other. Join us...

THIS Tuesday • January 17
6:30 - 8:00 pm
St. John NPC Mariotti Room

Weekend Mass Attendance

Weekend Of December 17/18

St. Mary		
4 pm	7 am	11 am
187	97	252

St. Margaret of Scotland		
4 pm	7:30 am	10 am
85	50	150

St. John the Evangelist		
4 pm	9:30 am	6 pm
160	237	112

Why did the stadium get hot after the game?

(see page 4)

Clergy

Reverend Brian E. Mahoney, Pastor
fr.brian@theholyrood.org | (978) 254-0560

Reverend Fernando Ayala, Parochial Vicar
frfernando@theholyrood.org | (978) 401-9844

Reverend Antonio de Souza, Parochial Vicar
frantonio@theholyrood.org | ext 310

Reverend Patrick Alemayo, Parochial Vicar
fr.patrickalemayo@theholyrood.org

Reverend Arnold F. Colletti, Sr. Priest in Residence
frcolletti@theholyrood.org | ext 116

Reverend Raymond Benoit, Sr. Priest in Residence
frray@theholyrood.org | ext 115

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

Outreach & Parish Ministry

Sr. Lori Fleming, SNDdeN, Pastoral Associate
srlori@theholyrood.org | ext 225

Business Office

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

Tina Sousa, Finance Support
tsousa@theholyrood.org | ext 219

Family Faith Formation

Heather Hannaway, MA , Dir of Faith Formation
hhannaway@theholyrood.org | ext 226

Courtney Callanan, MA, Asst Dir of Faith Formation
courtney@theholyrood.org | ext 227

Shaun Bradley, Faith Formation Associate
sbradley@theholyrood.org | ext 232

Elaine Kindler, Faith Formation Program Administrator
ekindler@theholyrood.org | ext 216

Lynn Anne LaDuke, Faith Formation Coordinator
lynnanne@theholyrood.org | ext 240

Office Administration

Sue Beechin, Administrative Assistant
sue@theholyrood.org | ext 236

Jamie Brown, Scheduling Coordinator
jbrown@theholyrood.org | ext 239

Donna Gambon, part-time Administrative Assistant
dgambon@theholyrood.org | ext 248

Rae Russo, part-time Funeral Coordinator
rae@theholyrood.org | (978) 306-5882

Facilities

Dan Heider, Facilities Manager
dheider@theholyrood.org | ext 213

Chris Goglia, Facilities Specialist
chris@theholyrood.org | ext 239

Bulletin, Website, Social Media

Christine Trznadel, Communications Director
christine@theholyrood.org | (978) 254-4406

To promote communication and transparency throughout The Holy Rood 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@theholyrood.org

Scott Davidson (SJE) - Chair

Rob Donnelly (SM)
Hilde Gilman (SMS)
Beth Jacavanco (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 Brzezenski
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. Submittals should be emailed to christine@theholyrood.org or via US Mail to the Parish Offices at 115 Middlesex Street, North Chelmsford, MA, 01863, ATTN Christine. We will do our best to accommodate your request.

here's what's happening in The Holy

NEW PROCEDURE

IN-PEW COMMUNION RECEPTION

If you are someone who is unable to receive Holy Communion via the communion line, please know that beginning THIS WEEKEND—January 14/15—you will no longer be limited to sitting in the handicap row or the first few rows of the church. You are now able to sit anywhere, provided it is at the END of the pew of your choosing.

When the time comes for the distribution of communion, two of our Eucharistic Ministers will walk among the congregation and bring communion to anyone who raises his/her hand. Being at the end of the pew allows the Eucharistic Minister to best serve you.

St. Mary St. Vincent de Paul

Thank you for your support during our recent Christmas appeal, and to those who support St. Vincent de Paul throughout the year. Because of your generosity, our SVdP ministry continues to provide a helping hand to our struggling brothers and sisters in the Chelmsford community. We ask that you keep them in your prayers.

You help us to help others. Blessings and peace to you all.

If for one reason or another you are up and about into the later evening hours, and notice that the lights are on in any of our churches, please don't call Fr. Brian… or the police! We have hired a cleaning company that will be cleaning our churches after hours on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays!

2022 TAX LETTERS

Tax Letters for parishioners who contributed $250 or more in 2022 will be mailed out by the end of January. If you are NOT in this category, but would like to receive a tax letter, please contact Paul Firicano. You can leave a voice mail or write an email leaving the following information: your name, address, envelope number (if you have one) and to which church you make your offertory donations.

answer: all of the fans left

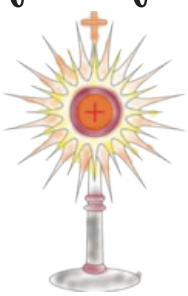
The Knights of Columbus Council 9275 will be hosting a St. Joseph Icon Prayer Service, in which an icon of St. Joseph will be the centerpiece.

The purpose of this prayer service is to honor St. Joseph and to collectively pray for his intercession in the preserving, cultivating and passing on of the Catholic faith to future generations. It will include the reading of scripture as well as the recitation of The Rosary and Litany of St. Joseph.

All are invited to attend!

THIS Monday, January 16 • 7 - 8:30 pm
St. Mary Church

Holy Hour for Life



Friday, January 27 • 7 pm • St. Margaret of Scotland Church • Deacon John

The Archdiocese of Boston *Holy Hours for Life, Forgiveness and Healing* are held annually in parishes in conjunction with the national observance of a Day of Prayer and Penance on January 22. The purpose of the Holy Hours is to bring Catholics together in prayerful solidarity for:

- increased respect for the dignity of human life from conception to natural death
- forgiveness and healing for all those wounded by abortion
- peace for those facing death and terminal illness, and holiness within the Church to transform the culture

Rood Collaborative community

Rite of the Catechumenate

Saturday January 21 • St. Mary 4 pm Mass

What is the Rite of the Catechumenate?

The Rite of the Catechumenate is the first formal step in the RCIA process for those preparing to enter the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil. This first step involves three components:

1. A formal statement by those seeking Baptism. They will profess to the community that they are earnestly seeking a relationship with Christ and desire to enter into His Church.
2. A response by the community. Those present, representing the whole community, promise to pray for and support the new catechumens as they seek entrance into the Church.
3. The presentation of the Word of God. Each of the new catechumens will be presented with a Bible that they might come to know Our Lord and hear His Word.

ACTS®

All Men, 18 years of age and older, are cordially invited to join us for our 2023...

Men's ACTS Retreat

Thursday, February 16 - Sunday, February 19
St. Thecla Retreat Center, Billerica MA

The ACTS ® (Adoration Community Theology Service) Retreat is a three-day Catholic retreat that runs from the evening of Thursday, February 16th and ends with morning Mass on Sunday, February 19th, 2023. Based on the Gospels and teachings of the Church, it 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 the Holy Rood Collaborative.

Registration forms can be found at the church entrances or can be downloaded from our website at https://theholyrood.org/acts.

For additional information about this ACTS Retreat, please contact Drew Jubinville at (603) 475-5633.

"Everybody can be great...because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace.
A soul generated by love."

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

Relic of the True Cross

In April, 2022, The Holy Rood Collaborative received a Relic of the True Cross. It was gifted to us from Fr. David Lewis of St. Adelaide Parish in Peabody. The wooden reliquary (pictured here) which houses the relic, was constructed by Bob Webb, a member of our Facilities Staff.

This relic was first presented to the Collaborative for the Veneration of the Cross devotion at St. Mary Church on Good Friday, April 15, 2022. In November of last year, it was moved to the Sacred Heart altar at St. Margaret of Scotland Church. Now, you can find it near the baptismal font at St. John. We hope that if you have not already had the opportunity, that you will be able to spend some quiet time in veneration of this true gift to our community. Especially as each of our collaborative patron saints—St. Mary, St. Margaret and St. John—has a very close relationship with the One True Cross.

the Financial Page

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

Fiscal Year 2021: July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

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

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 7/8	Fiscal Year-To-Date January 8	Fiscal YTD Average/Week
Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses	$15,000	$405,000	$15,000
Actual Received	$16,333	$372,660	$13,802
Shortfall/ Overage	$1,333	-$32,340	-$1,198

ST. JOHN WEEKLY OFFERTORY	Weekend of January 7/8	Fiscal Year-To-Date January 8	Fiscal YTD Average/Week
Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses	$10,300	$278,100	$10,300
Actual Received	$12,375	$246,475	$9,129
Shortfall/ Overage	$2,075	-$31,625	-$1,171

ST. MARGARET WEEKLY OFFERTORY	Weekend of January 7/8	Fiscal Year-To-Date January 8	Fiscal YTD Average/Week
Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses	$4,800	$129,600	$4,800
Actual Received	$5,128	$116,525	$4,316
Shortfall/ Overage	$328	-$13,075	-$484

If you've not yet had a chance to donate, you may do so by visiting **www.theholyrood.org/grand-annual.** It is here where you will also find the letter sent by Fr. Brian to parishioners of each parish.

FY 2023 GRAND ANNUAL: AS OF DECEMBER 18	Goal	Raised	%age of Goal
St. Mary	$100,000	$68,030	68.03%
St. John	$70,000	$49,036	70.05%
St. Margaret	$65,000	$55,547	85.46%

St. John the Evangelist WeShare ON LINE GIVING

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.

St. Mary Parish Online Giving

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.

VANCO St. Margaret of Scotland Parish Intentional Giving

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.

LOST AND FOUND

Items that you may have lost or forgotten in the pews at St. Margaret Church can be picked up from the table located on the front porch of St. Margaret Rectory—Stevens Street door.

ENTERING

EST Jan 2023

ORDINARY TIME

It is worth pausing for a moment to reflect and pray about the way the Church thinks about time, because it is so different from the way that the world thinks about it.

There are times of the liturgical year, such as Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter, which are special and particular times of being with Christ.

But what about "Ordinary Time," into which we are entering? How are we to think about it? It not only fills the gap between the seasons, but it, too, is charged with meaning.

While God entered into our time through the incarnation of His son, and through the mystery of Jesus' death, resurrection and outpouring of the Holy Spirit, we must be aware that the effects of these graces spill over into EVERY minute of EVERY hour of EVERY day. And as a result, our entire lives are filled with the presence of God, who draws us to Himself and transforms our lives.

Ordinary Time is a time for growth and maturation, a time in which the mystery of Christ is called to penetrate ever more deeply into history until all things are finally caught up in Christ.

Let us welcome and embrace ordinary time

20 DAYS AND COUNTING...

until the

$5,000 BONANZA

GRAND PRIZE DRAWING!

Friday, February 3
St. Margaret of Scotland
Sacred Heart Hall

Raffle begins at 6:30 pm
Doors open at 6 pm
Light refreshments

IF ANY TICKETS REMAIN, THEY WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE ON THE NIGHT OF THE DRAWING. BUT WE SUGGEST BUYING EARLY AS THE NUMBER OF AVAILABLE TICKETS IS LIMITED! DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE AT $5,000!

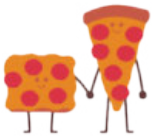
Proceeds from this fundraiser will be used to upgrade the sink area and hot water tank in the St. Margaret Sacred Heart Hall, therefore, your support of this event is GREATLY APPRECIATED!

If you have any questions or any special requests, contact Cathie Denomme at (978) 454-3213 or catdon4@gmail.com.

Order forms can be found at our church entrances or at www.theholyrood.org/5000-bonanza

ALL FAMILIES of the COLLABORATIVE ARE INVITED!

FAITH AND FAMILY FUN
SATURDAYS AT 5 PM
SAINT JOHN PARISH HALL



****WE WILL NOT BE GATHERING THIS WEEKEND****

...but there are PLENTY of Saturdays left in 2023! Please consider joining us in fostering and strengthening family friendships within our collaborative! This is a casual gathering, centered around food (pizza and any side dish you may wish to bring), fun (you are invited to bring a game!) and fellowship (conversation galore, resulting in possiuble new friendships!)

For more information: email Marianne.Hudelson@gmail.com

Family Faith Formation

Uniting the Heart of the Church with the Heart of the Home

Heather Hannaway, MA • Director of Faith Formation • hhannaway@theholyrood.org • ext 226
Courtney Callanan, MA • Assistant Director of Faith Formation • courtney@theholyrood.org • ext 227
Shaun Bradley • Faith Formation Associate • sbradley@theholyrood.org • ext 232
Elaine Kindler • Faith Formation Program Administrator • ekindler@theholyrood.org • ext 216
Lynn Anne LaDuke • Faith Formation Coordinator • lynnanne@theholyrood.org • ext 240

JANUARY CLASS SCHEDULE

Grades 3 - 6
Sunday, January 22
Families Gather Together
Please Attend **YOUR** Session

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

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

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

Confirmation I
Sunday, January 22
4:15 - 5:45 PM
St. John Parish Hall

Confirmation II
Sunday, January 29
4:15 - 5:45 PM
St. John Parish Hall

Catechists Retreat
Sunday, January 29
12 - 2 pm at St. Mary

Year-Long Faith Formation Service Project

This service project will benefit our St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantries which serve ALL families in our collaborative.

The many services that the St. Paul de Vincent Society (SVdP) offers our community are in extremely high demand these days! Job loss, illness and inflation are impacting family food bills and piggy banks making it difficult for some to regularly put food on their table. Having said that, our food pantries are in desperate need of gift cards—SPECIFICALLY Walmart, Market Basket and Target—which are given to families in need of assistance, and we are hoping that together we can make a difference!

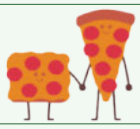
We will be accepting these gift card donations during our class/gathering times and deep dive events throughout the end of May, 2023.

Thank you, in advance, for your generosity!

UPCOMING DEEP DIVES

Each student is required to participate in 4 Deep Dive events throughout the year. To download the calendar, visit www.theholyrood.org/calendar-schedules. For descriptions, please visit www.theholyrood.org/deep-dives. To complete the required reflection sheet, visit ww.theholyrood.org/dd-reflection.

Faith and Family Gathering
Every Saturday at 5 pm (unless noted)
St. John Parish Hall



Our Collaborative Patron Saints (RSVP Required)
Wednesday, January 18 • 6:30—8 pm
St. Margaret Sacred Heart Hall

Bible Races (RSVP Required)
Saturday, January 28 • 10:30 am—12:30 pm
St. Mary Parish Hall

Family Adoration Evening
Thursday, February 2 • 6:30—8 pm
St. Mary Church

First Reconciliations

If you have not yet registered, please do so via the below link:
http://bit.ly/3vQCtXK

The following Saturdays still have availability...

January 21 • 1-2:15 pm • St. John Church
January 28 • 9-10:30 am • St. Mary Church
January 28 • 1-2:15 pm • St. John Church
February 4 • 11 am-12:15 pm • St. Margaret Church

January Faith in Action

Grades 3-6

Challenge of the Month
Bow your Head when you Hear the Name of Jesus

Adopt the pious practice of bowing your head whenever you say or hear the name of Jesus. Just as we should genuflect before the Real Presence in the tabernacle or make a Sign of the Cross as we pass a Catholic Church, scripture tells us:

"At the name of Jesus every knee should bend of those in heaven, on earth, and under the earth."
-Phil 2:10

Heavenly Hall of Fame
January - Mary, Mother of God

Though her feast day is celebrated January 1, Catholics honor Mary every day of the year through prayer. We remember the many ways God blessed Mary. We read about Mary in Scripture. Since Mary was the first to hear about the mission of Jesus, she is His first disciple. She dedicated her life on earth to following Him and supporting His work. She showed other how to follow Jesus as well. Her faith came from an understanding of the great gifts that God had given to her, especially the gift of her son, Jesus. By following Mary, we can see the way to love Jesus more deeply and appreciate how much He loves us.

Devotion of the Month—Jesus Prayer

"Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of the God,
have mercy on me."

This prayer reflects the idea that the name of God is sacred and that its invocation implies a direct meeting with the divine.

Bible Story
Daniel and the Lion's Den

Read the very popular story from the Old Testament in the book of Daniel, Chapter 6.

Daniel's story encourages those who follow God to focus more on what He says about them than what others say about them.

www.openbible.info/labs/kids-bible-stories

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN for 2023 CATHOLIC HEART WORK CAMP
JULY 16-21—NORTH HALEDON, NJ

www.theholyrood.org/catholic-heart-work-camp

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: April 1

COST: $525 plus Fundraising Participation
Scholarships are available contact Courtney

MADE for MORE
CATHOLIC HEART WORKCAMP
EST. 1993

JOIN US THIS SUMMER AND EXPLORE HOW WE ARE ***MADE FOR MORE.***

Jesus came so we could have life to the fullest. Life with Him offers MORE. Because of Jesus, we can have a life of abundance. Of greatness. A life MORE fulfilling, satisfying, and remarkable than we can imagine.

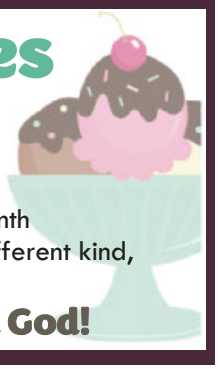
A life with Christ is what we were made for.

We are God's masterpiece, created for a purpose and destiny. Scripture is filled with Him telling us of the great works we are capable of. We were created to be more than bystanders. Christ invites us into a beautiful existence of being loved by Him and calls us to share that love with others through the unique gifts He has given each of us. He fills us up so we can overflow into the lives of others.

Join us this summer and discover MORE ways to use your gifts, experience MORE self-love, & embrace MORE of a relationship with Jesus Christ.

MORE LOVE.
MORE SERVICE.
MORE CONNECTION.
MORE HOPE.
MORE JOY.
MORE FULFILLMENT.
MORE PEACE.
WE WERE **MADE FOR MORE**.
MORE THAN THIS EARTHLY WORLD ASKS OF US.

Sunday Sundaes



HEY! FAITH FORMATION STUDENTS!
TURN IN THOSE TICKETS TO HEAVEN!

1 Ticket To Heaven turned in within a 3-month period = an invitation to a banquet of a different kind, but one which should remind us that

all good things come from God!

This week we celebrated the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. In being baptized, Jesus established the basic necessity for all Christians to be baptized. It becomes the very foundation of the life we are called to live. God has chosen to make us part of his mission in the world. He wants us to be his agents of change and mission. Each one of us is called to be a participant in the wonderful gift of sharing our faith with the whole world. When we fail to exercise our duty and responsibility that arises from our baptism—to bring Christ's message into the world—then we have failed God. Think of it this way: if someone was drowning and you had a rope to throw to them, but kept it for yourself because you did not want to intrude, you would be responsible for that person's death. But if you threw the rope and they refused to take it, the fault is theirs alone. We must recognize that the world, in a sense, is drowning and we have the rope to the save the world—Christ. We must throw the rope; in other words, we must evangelize in order to bring the message of Christ to others. If we do not, then we are directly responsible if they are lost to Christ and come to lead a life of damnation. If they refuse to take the rope, then the responsibility is theirs alone.

We must prepare ourselves to become agents of mission, but how do we do that? The first step is to accept, and take seriously, that we have the only message of salvation. We must become comfortable with the truth that salvation is only possible through Christ. And that Christ came *not* to condemn the world but to save the world. We must understand what our message to the world is all about. It is a message of love but also of challenge. Yes, Christ accepted all the people who came to Him but He did not leave them in their sin. He challenged them to reject their sins and follow Him. We must also realize that following Christ does not happen in a moment of instant clarity and ability to follow. Instead, as with Saint Peter, it will happen with fits and starts: people will falter and that's okay. We are not a Church of Saints but, rather, a Church of people on the road of redemption in and through Christ. We are a Church of people being redeemed by the saving actions of Jesus Christ. We are not a Church of perfect people, but of those being perfected in and through Christ. We are a Church wholly, completely, and totally dependent upon Christ for all things, particularly our salvation. We are part of a club that has no exclusions but one—that all must accept Christ as their Lord and Savior and give over their will completely to the Father.

We are not a Church of rules to be followed. We are not a Church of do's and do not's. We are not a Church that is for this and against that. Yes, we have our beliefs and they are important. We must always, as a Church, support life but that is *not* our only message. We must always uphold the truth of marriage and family life but that is *not* our only message. We must always uphold the preferential option of the poor but that is *not* our only message. We must always be about supporting the marginalized and suffering but that is *not* our only message. We must always uphold the truths of proper use of our sexuality and its appropriate expression but that is *not* our only message. It is far too easy to focus on issues and let that become the focus of our faith. And when we do that, we have lost the power of our faith.

Our faith is not issue-oriented, but rather it is driven by relationship. If people do not have a real relationship with Christ, then all of our teachings will be meaningless. They only find their strength when they are grounded in a real relationship with Christ. We cannot save people by trying to stop "bad" behavior. We only can save them by leading them to Christ. We are not going to lead people to Christ by telling them how bad they are, or all the wrong things they are doing. We are not throwing them a rope when we hammer them with the brokenness of their lives. Yes, people do need to repent and take up the challenge of transforming their lives in accord with the will of God. But first they need some hope and Christ is that hope.

When Jesus forgave the adulterous woman, He did not belabor the point of her sin; He simply accepted her and then challenged her to sin no more. We must do the same. The Good Samaritan helped the dying man but did so with no expectation of a return. We must do the same. As Christ hung on the cross He forgave those who crucified Him. We must do the same. We are not here to judge a person, but only their sinful action. We are here to accept and love the broken ones in the world because that is what Christ did for us.

In our baptism we were called to become agents of change and mission. We do that through how we use the gifts and talents God has given us. Over the next couple of weeks we will examine how we do this.

If you have any questions about anything, please do not hesitate to ask me directly, send your questions to me at fr.brian@theholyrood.org, or call me at (978) 254-0560.

Please keep me in your prayers.

From our Faith Formation Program Administrator

Elaine Kindler

My God Is Now My Strength

I don't know about you, but I've had my fill of advertisements cajoling, even demanding, that I do one thing or another to make myself over into a new me: set goals for the year, join a fitness program, eat better, find "me" time, etc., etc., etc. All this to make me a better and, presumably, stronger person.

Not that doing any of these things isn't a good idea, but for all the new year/new you chatter, I see one big gaping hole. Success in any of these suggestions relies on my own strength to succeed, or so it seems. And all too often my own strength and ability don't get me to my desired end results.

Halfway through January and I'm already a little tired. Maybe it's post-Christmas letdown—all the anticipation of Jesus coming and the excitement of his arrival; sharing joy -filled greetings and gifts with family and friends—over in a flash.

Then in the passage from Isaiah in today's Mass readings, the prophet writes: "My God is now my strength."

"My God is now my strength."

Not just for the Advent Season; not just for the Christmas season, but for today; for every day. Believing this truth lifts that feeling of tiredness. Trusting it means that all things are possible. I can be a stronger person, not because of anything I do, but because of who God is and what he equips me to do.

The Isaiah passage ends with: "I will make you a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth."

This is, after all, what every disciple of Christ is called to do: tell the Good News! Bring others to know Jesus Christ. It's not something we can do entirely with our own strength. With the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, however, it becomes absolutely possible. With God's strength in us, we will never grow tired of doing this.

At the risk of sounding like someone offering a miracle to change you into a better version of yourself, meditate on these words. Pray to know God's strength in you. Pray for the passion in your heart to be a light for the nations.

Indeed, let's pray for each other that we will know and accept that "my God is now my strength," and be ready to bring Jesus, God's salvation, to whomever we are with each day. As we're able to do this, we will change the world.

God bless you.

From our Sr. Priest in Residence

Fr. Colletti

Generosity

As humans, we like parity in our relationships with others. We'd like to get as much as we give. "It isn't fair, we cry" if we give more than our share of time or energy to one who seems to be lacking in generosity. Look at Peter. When Jesus taught the disciples about sin and forgiveness (Matthew 18:15) Peter asked him, "If another member of the Church sins against me, how often should I forgive, as many times as seven times?" Peter was asking an accounting question with some kind of balance scale involved in forgiveness. Jesus' answer, "Seventy times seven" meant forgive as many times as necessary. Forgive generously.

Jesus spoke of generosity many times in the gospels. In a conversation about hospitality, Jesus encouraged his followers not to invite people only in the hope of being repaid. In another place he said, "Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you." (Matthew 5:42). He continually points out how generous the Father has been, and is, to those who hear him, and so they should be generous with one another.

I hope you will trust in the Lord during these hard economic times and be even more generous, knowing the great needs of others.

There is another area of generosity. We must be generous in praise and encouragement for each other. I have always loved the beginning of Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. Paul often began his letters with thanksgiving for the recipients. Here his words seem even more poignant because of the difficulties in the Corinthian Church. The people of Corinth were divided, quarreling over practices and status. Still Paul believed the best about them, writing, "I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given to you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, and speech and knowledge of every kind, just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you, so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift." (1 Corinthians 1:4). Paul spoke of the grace present in this group, of Christ enriching them with speech and knowledge. Now that's generosity.

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Community events

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"PRAY:
THE STORY OF PATRICK PEYTON"
Documentary Film Screening Event

Saturday, January 21 • 7 pm
Museum of Family Prayer
518 Washington Street, North Easton

Couples – listen up – want a free, fun, date night?
Popcorn and beverages provided!

Enjoy and be inspired by a documentary about an unlikely hero who had an extraordinary mission! PRAY: THE STORY OF PATRICK PEYTON (trailer at https://PrayTheFilm.com) is a film about a poor Irish immigrant who came to America in 1927 with dreams of becoming a millionaire. But God and the Blessed Virgin Mary had other plans for Patrick. His ministry drew more than 28 million people to their global events and his films drew stars, like Bing Crosby. Mark your calendar and join us!

Visit www.MuseumofFamilyPrayer.org

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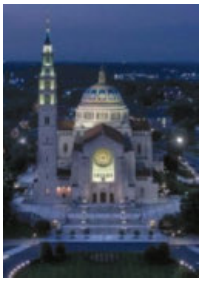
Tours are available during the academic year, including school vacation weeks, and throughout the summer.

2023 National Prayer Vigil for Life January 19-20

"A great prayer for life is urgently needed, a prayer which will rise up throughout the world. Through special initiative and in daily prayer, may an impassioned plea rise to God, the Creator and lover of life, from every Christian community, from every group and association, from every family and from the heart of every believer."

-Pope Saint John Paul II, Evangelium Vitae



The National Prayer Vigil for Life is a prayer vigil held on the eve of the March for Life each January. Thousands of pilgrims from across the nation pray for an end to abortion and a greater respect for all human life. It is held at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC.

The National Prayer Vigil for Life is one small part of the Church's "great prayer for life." It is sponsored by the USCCB Pro-Life Secretariat, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, and The Catholic University of America Office of Campus Ministry.

The prayer events on January 19 and the closing Mass on January 20 will be televised by EWTN (Comcast ch 1668/ verizon FIOS ch 285/ DIRECTV ch 370/ DISH ch 261) and livestreamed from the Basilica's webpage www.nationalshrine.org/mass/ or EWTN at www.ewtn.com/tv/watch-live. Please refer to the schedule below:

Opening Mass ● Thursday, January 19

4:45 pm: Chaplet of Divine Mercy
5:00 pm: Opening Prayer Vigil for Life Mass
Principal Celebrant and Homilist: Most Reverend Michael F Burbidge
Bishop of Arlington and Chairman, USCCB Committe on Pro-Life Activities
7:00 pm: Holy Hour for Life

Closing Mass ● Friday, January 20

8:00 am: Closing Prayer Vigil for Life Mass
Principal Celebrant and Homilist: Most Reverend Joseph L Coffey
Auxiliary Bishop, Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA

We here at The Holy Rood Collaborative will play our part in this National Prayer Vigil for Life by holding a Holy Hour on Friday, January 27th. Please refer to page 4 for the details.

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MASSACHUSETTS CITIZENS FOR LIFE

JOB OPPORTUNITY:
Director of Digital Marketing and Communications

Massachusetts Citizens for Life (MCFL) is looking for a Director of Digital Marketing & Communications. Reporting to the President, this part-time and remote role (20 hours/week during regular business hours) serves as a key member of MCFL's leadership team. Details and application instructions can be found at masscitizensforlife.org/employment.

For details on all available ways to remember a loved one, visit:

www.theholyrood.org/remember-a-loved-one

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 your schedule your intention.

St. John the Evangelist

Sat, Jan 14	4:00 pm:	People of the Parish
Sun, Jan 15	9:30 am:	Paul O Amirault: 25th Anniversary
	6 pm:	Edward Clancy and Marie & William O'Connell: Memorial
Tue, Jan 17	9:00 am:	Donald Gadbois: Memorial
Fri, Jan 20	9:00 am:	Paul and Marguerite Morency: Memorial
Sat, Jan 21	4:00 pm:	Patrick John Cannon: Memorial
Sun, Jan 22	9:30 am:	People of the Parish
	6:00 pm:	Konny Safka: Month's Mind

St. Margaret of Scotland

Sat, Jan 14	4:00 pm:	Stephen G Botto and Gertrude Brooks: Memorial
Sun, Jan 15	7:30 am:	Joanne K McKee: Memorial
	10:00 am:	People of the Parish
Tue, Jan 17	8:00 am:	Henry Stupakewicz: 9th Anniversary
Wed, Jan 18	8:00 am:	David M Quinn: Birthday Memorial
Thu, Jan 19	8:00 am:	LIVING INTENTION: Birthday Blessings for Barbara Gross
Sat, Jan 21	4:00 pm:	People of the Parish
Sun, Jan 22	7:30 am:	Richard J Foley: 20th Anniversary
	10:00 am:	Frank LaPan: Memorial

St. Mary Parish

Sat, Jan 14	4:00 pm:	Frank Picanso: 1st Anniversary
Sun, Jan 15	7:00 am:	For all those who have no one to pray for them
	11:00 am:	People of the Parish
Tue, Jan 17	7:00 am:	John J and Mary T O'Rourke: Memorial
Sat, Jan 21	4:00 pm:	People of the Parish
Sun, Jan 22	11:00 am:	Patricia Kidder: 1st Anniversary

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 and the dedication will be published in the weekly bulletin. If you would like to donate altar flowers, call the parish office. A 2-week notice is required for your order.

Lamps

Each of our churches offers the opportunity to have the sanctuary lamps burn In Memory of a loved one.

St. Mary Sanctuary Lamp
In Memory of Gregory Murphy

St. Margaret Bells

The steeple bells at St. Margaret toll daily at 12 and 6pm, followed by the ringing of the Angelus bell and 2 hymns. At 3pm, 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 $25 stipend includes your dedication published in the bulletin.

In Memory of Patricia Caron

Funeral Recently Celebrated

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

Anita Dalton • Thursday, January 12 • St. Mary
Donald Patrick Keeley • Friday, January 13 • St. John
Deborah Harlan • Saturday, January 14 • St. Margaret

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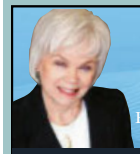
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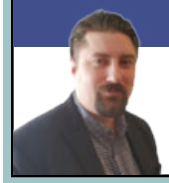
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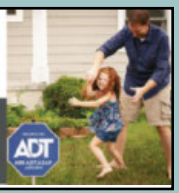

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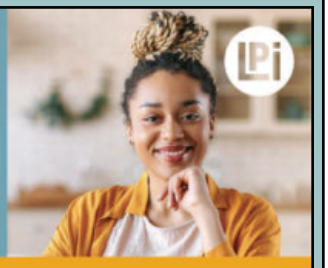

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