



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 12, 2023

## Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Again, you have heard that it was said to your ancestors, do not take a false oath, but make good to the Lord all that you vow.”

- Matt 5:33



### Parish Office Location and Hours

115 Middlesex Street • North Chelmsford, 01863  
(978) 256-2374 | [www.theholyrood.org](http://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, February 13

Bible Study • 10 - 11:45 am • SM PC Conf Room 1  
 Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3 pm • SJE Church and LIVEVIEW  
 Confession • 4:30 - 5:30 pm • SJE Church  
 Rosary • 7 pm • SM Church and LIVEVIEW  
 ACTS CORE Meeting • 7 - 9 pm • SJE Linehan  
 SM 4 pm Choir Rehearsal • 7 - 8 pm • SM Hall

## Tuesday, February 14

Blood Pressure Clinic, following 9 am Mass • SJE Hall  
 Coffee Group, following 9 am Mass • SJE Hall  
 Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3 pm • SJE Church and LIVEVIEW  
 Confession • 4:30 - 5:30 pm • SMS Church  
 SMS Choir Rehearsal • 7 - 8:45 pm • SMS Choir Loft  
 Rosary • 7 pm • SM Church and LIVEVIEW

## Wednesday, February 15

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  
 Rosary • 7 pm • SM Church and LIVEVIEW  
 St. Mary Youth Choir Rehearsal • 4:45 - 5:45 pm • SM Hall

## Thursday, February 16

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  
 SM 11 am Choir Rehearsal • 7:30 pm • SM Hall

## Friday, February 17

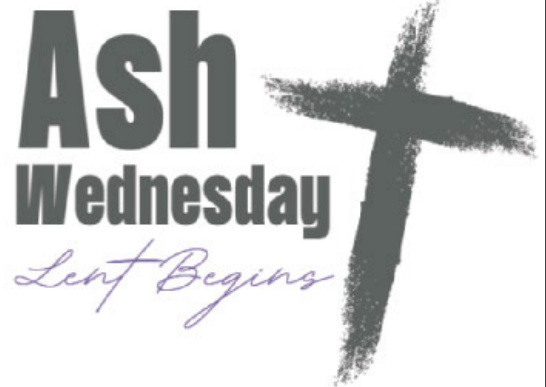
Blood Pressure Clinic, following 7:30 am Mass • SMS Hall  
 Knitting and Crocheting • 2 - 4 pm • SM Hall  
 Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3 pm • SJE Church and LIVEVIEW  
 Rosary • 7 pm • SM Church and LIVEVIEW

## Saturday, February 18

Saturday Men • 7 - 8:45 am • SJE NPC Linehan  
 Men of St. Joseph • 8 - 9 am • SMS SVdP Room  
 Contemplative Prayer • 9:30 - 11 am • SJE NPC Linehan  
 SJE Hospitality Meeting • 9:30 - 11 am • SJE Hall  
 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 pm • SJE Hall

## Sunday, February 19

SJE Prayer Shawl Meeting, following 9:30 am Mass • SJE OPC  
 Blood Pressure Clinic, following 10 am Mass • SMS Hall  
 African Community Meeting • 1:30 - 3:30 pm • SJE OPC



Lent is JUST AROUND THE CORNER...  
 beginning with Ash Wednesday  
 on February 22.

Please find below the Ash Wednesday  
 Mass Schedule:

St. Mary: 7 am and 4 pm  
 St. Margaret: 8 am and 6 pm  
 St. John: 9 am and 7 pm  
 12 pm Liturgy of the Word

The schedule of ALL Lenten events can  
 be found on pages 12-13.

## Weekend Mass Attendance

Weekend Of February 4/5

St. Mary		
4 pm	7 am	11 am
132	106	172

St. Margaret of Scotland		
4 pm	7:30 am	10 am
67	40	209

St. John the Evangelist		
4 pm	9:30 am	6 pm
156	182	113



**Why don't they  
 pay poker  
 in the  
 jungle?**

The Weekly Dad Joke  
 Brought to you  
 by our very own  
**Bob, The Builder**

(see page 5)

## 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  
fray@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

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Lynn Anne LaDuke, FAITH FORMATION COORDINATOR  
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Chris Goglia, FACILITIES SPECIALIST  
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## 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](mailto:collaborativeppc@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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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



and St. John Tuesday  
Morning Coffee Group  
are coming together THIS Tuesday,  
February 14.

Join us in the St. John Hall following the 9 am daily  
Mass to get a blood pressure check, grab a cup  
of coffee and enjoy some conversation.



## Blood Pressure/Health Screening at St. Margaret of Scotland...

Friday, February 17, following 8 am Mass and  
Sunday, February 19, following 10 am Mass  
St. Margaret Sacred Heart Hall



**ASL MASS AT  
ST. MARY**

**SUNDAY MARCH 5 AT 11 AM**



Fr. Shawn Carey,  
director of the Deaf  
Apostolate of the  
Archdiocese of Boston,  
will be celebrating the  
St. Mary 11 am Mass in  
American Sign  
Language (ASL) on  
Sunday, March 5. This  
Mass will be translated  
into the spoken word.

Fr. Shawn was ordained  
in the Archdiocese of  
Boston on May 23,  
2009 at Holy Cross Cathedral in Boston. We  
look forward to his sharing this special  
ministry with each of us, especially the hearing  
-impaired members of our collaborative  
family.

To learn more about Fr. Shawn and/or the  
Deaf Apostolate, visit...

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wp9MZfL270o>
- <https://www.bostondeafcatholic.org/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/watch/bostondeafcatholic.org/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DKx2Ux4RBnU>

## Desperately Seeking Someone...

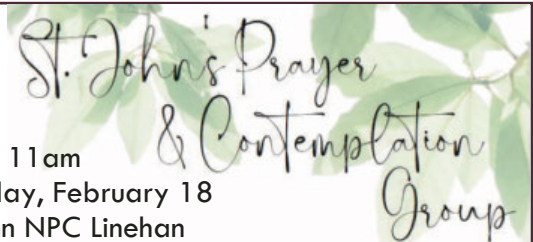
to lead us in the decorating duties at St. Mary. As many can  
attest to, the visual representation of each liturgical  
season—Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter—is extremely  
important to the worship experience. Those of us who may  
not consciously recognize this fact would most certainly  
notice when it is absent.

Our current leader, Michelle Lando, has dedicated the past  
6 years to this ministry, with the support of her family... her  
dedicated volunteers. It is now time for her to pass the  
baton so that she can focus more of her attention on family  
life and work responsibilities. I think we can all agree that  
she has beautifully captured the essence of our liturgical  
seasons in a simple, yet profound way. And let us not forget  
the gift of beauty shared with us under the previous  
leadership of Peg Kemper for over 50 years!

A number of you have answered previous requests to help,  
but what we really need is someone to accept the passing  
of the baton, and lead us into the days ahead.

With Lent less than 2 weeks away, we are close to begging  
for someone to answer this call. No super-special, high-level  
skill set is required... just a love of Church and beauty.  
Please know that you will not be alone in providing this  
service as there are others who are willing to be part of this  
team effort. Are you our next head coach? Please  
prayerfully consider!

If interested in learning more, please contact Christine at  
(978) 254-4408.



9:30 - 11 am  
Saturday, February 18  
St. John NPC Linehan

Registration is required.

Email [stjohnprayerandcontemplation@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnprayerandcontemplation@gmail.com)

# Rood Collaborative community



## St. Patrick's & Dinner Party Shamrock Raffle

Saturday, March 11

St. John Parish Hall

Doors Open at 5 pm/ Festivities begin at 5:30 pm

TICKETS: \$25 per person

available beginning February 25th

MENU: Corned Beef\* and Cabbage

Bring your own beer and/or wine

ENTERTAINMENT: Live Music, Raffle and Door Prize



**ALPINE  
BUTCHER**  
YOUR FAMILY OWNED BUTCHER

\* provided by  
Alpine Butcher in Lowell



answer: because there are too many cheetahs

## Pastoral Care MINISTRY to the homebound

There will be a meeting for all pastoral care visitors in our collaborative who bring Eucharist to the homebound. Please join us on...

Sunday, February 26 • 3 pm  
St. Margaret Sacred Heart Hall

Your presence and sharing are needed and welcome as the agenda will be a follow-up to the meeting held in November and planning for the months ahead.

## Support Local Business



SHOP OUR BULLETIN  
ADVERTISERS TODAY



## VIRTUS® Protecting God's Children Workshops

In an effort to protect the most vulnerable in our midst, the Archdiocese of Boston requires ALL volunteers and employees over the age of 18, regardless of the ministry in which they are involved, to attend and complete the "VIRTUS-Protecting God's Children" workshop. In order to assist our volunteers in fulfilling this requirement, we will be holding two workshops here in the Collaborative, hopefully catering to differing schedules.

Saturday, Feb 25 • 1 - 4 pm • St. Mary Parish Hall  
Register by February 17

Tuesday, Mar 7 • 6 - 9 pm • St. Mary Parish Hall  
Register by February 28

Class size is limited and registration is REQUIRED so register TODAY by visiting [www.virtusonline.org/virtus](http://www.virtusonline.org/virtus) or contact Sue in the parish offices Monday - Thursday, 10 am - 4 pm.

Failure to complete this required workshop will prohibit your valued participation as a volunteer.

## All Shrines of Italy Pilgrimage September 17—30, 2023



Help Deacon John celebrate his 25th Anniversary of his Ordination by joining him on a pilgrimage this coming September!

## INFORMATION NIGHT

Deacon John will be holding an information night to present this pilgrimage and answer any questions you may have. Join him on...

Friday, February 24 • 7 - 8:30 pm  
St. John Church Hall

Before this evening, be sure to check out the trip itinerary and details at [www.pilgrimages.com/dcnjohn](http://www.pilgrimages.com/dcnjohn) and come with ALL your questions!

# the Financial Page

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

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

To view this and ALL past financial reports, visit  
[www.theholyrood.org](http://www.theholyrood.org); click on the stewardship tab

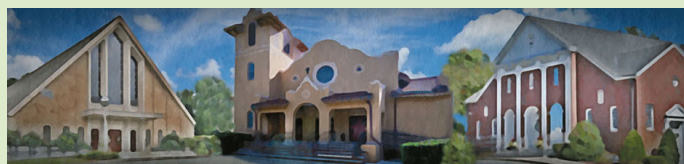
## IMPORTANT DONATION REMINDER

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 February 4/5	Fiscal Year-To-Date February 5	Fiscal YTD Average/Week
Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses	\$15,000	\$465,000	\$15,000
Actual Received	\$13,269	\$433,504	\$13,984
Shortfall/ Overage	-\$1,731	-\$31,496	-\$1,106

ST. JOHN WEEKLY OFFERTORY	Weekend of February 4/5	Fiscal Year-To-Date February 5	Fiscal YTD Average/Week
Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses	\$10,300	\$319,300	\$10,300
Actual Received	\$10,319	\$278,931	\$8,998
Shortfall/ Overage	\$19	-\$40,369	-\$1,302

ST. MARGARET WEEKLY OFFERTORY	Weekend of February 4/5	Fiscal Year-To-Date February 5	Fiscal YTD Average/Week
Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses	\$4,800	\$148,800	\$4,800
Actual Received	\$4,951	\$132,708	\$4,281
Shortfall/ Overage	\$151	-\$16,092	-\$519



If you've not yet had a chance to donate, you may do so by visiting [www.theholyrood.org/grand-annual](http://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 FEBRUARY 5

	Goal	Raised	%age of Goal
St. Mary	\$100,000	\$71,220	71.22%
St. John	\$70,000	\$51,061	72.94%
St. Margaret	\$65,000	\$58,097	89.38%



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.





Ed Slott, America's  
IRA Expert,  
Presents...



Jim  
Effner  
Presents...



## Retirement Savings and Distribution Planning

March 2 at 7:30 pm EST

RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/KofCSlottMarch2>

## Importance of Whole Life as Part of a Retirement Plan

April 26 at 7:30 pm EST

RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/KofCEffnerApril26>

*When registering, please enter 'Council 925' so that our council will receive credit for your attendance. Thank*

Ed Slott, CPS, is a nationally recognized speaker, television personality and best-selling author known for his unparalleled ability to turn advanced tax strategies into understandable, actionable and entertaining advice. Ed combines current research, in-depth expertise, and humor to teach viewers about the ins and outs of their retirements and distribution planning information.

Jim Effner is founder and president of P2P Group and specializes in training financial services professionals. Previously, Jim was Managing Partner of one of the largest Northwestern Mutual offices in the country. He built the Effner Group to nearly 150 full-time and college advisors, insuring over 65,000 policyholders.

## community events

### EXPOSITION OF PASSION RELICS Saturday February 25 • 12—4 pm



There will be relics from the Table of the Last Supper, True Cross, Crown of Thorns, Title, Sponge and Empty Tomb.

## SCHEDULE

- 12 pm: Mass
- 1 pm: Relic Presentation
- 1:45 pm: Veneration of Relics
- 3 pm: Praying with the Relics



154 Summer Street Medway MA, 02053  
Phone: (508) 533-5377 | Website: [Betania2.org](http://Betania2.org)

## "BE HEALED!" [MARK 5:34]

A Lenten Mission for Personal and Communal Healing

Saint Kathryn Parish invites you to join us for a Lenten Mission given by Sr. Briege McKenna, O.S.C. and Fr. Pablo Escriva.

Sr. Briege entered the Sisters of St. Clare at age fifteen, suffered from chronic pain, and experienced a miraculous healing during the celebration of the Eucharist a few years later. She also received a deep spiritual insight into the mystery of the call to the priesthood and has been invited to speak at countless retreats and conferences ever since.

Fr. Pablo speaks at retreats as a missionary to many countries, working with youth and giving spiritual exercises to priests. Sr. Briege and Fr. Pablo will be speaking about reconciliation, prayer, the Holy Spirit, the Eucharist, and the healing power of the Cross. We look forward to welcoming you as we take in the words of these two dynamic speakers. No registration is required. A love offering will be collected at the Mass on Thursday evening.

Monday, March 20 - Thursday, March 23

#### MONDAY, MAR 20 RECONCILIATION

8 AM 8:30 AM  
ROSARY MASS

6:30 PM  
EVENING MISSION  
TALK AND SERVICE  
OF RECONCILIATION

#### TUESDAY, MAR 21 PRAYER AND THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

6:30 PM  
EVENING  
MISSION TALK

#### WEDNESDAY, MAR 22 THE EUCHARIST: "THE SOURCE AND SUMMIT OF OUR FAITH"

8:00 AM: ROSARY  
8:30 AM: MASS

9 AM – 6 PM  
EUCHARISTIC ADORATION  
6:30 PM  
EVENING MISSION TALK

#### THURSDAY, MAR 23 HEALING AND THE POWER OF THE CROSS

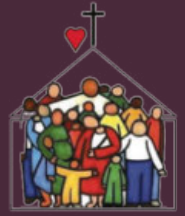
8 AM 8:30 AM  
ROSARY MASS

6:30 PM  
MASS, MISSION TALK  
AND EUCHARISTIC  
HEALING SERVICE

St. Kathryn Parish • 4 Dracut Road • Hudson, NH  
visit [stkathryns.org/briege](http://stkathryns.org/briege) for more information

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

## FEBRUARY CLASS SCHEDULE

### GRADES 3 - 6

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12**  
**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

Children will remain in the hall while parents move into Discipleship Groups.

### CONFIRMATION II

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

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12**  
Going Deeper in Rote Prayer

### CONFIRMATION I

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

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26**  
Going Deeper in Rote Prayer



**SMILE**  
Jesus Loves You!

## 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](http://www.theholyrood.org/calendar-schedules)

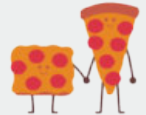
For descriptions, please visit ...

[www.theholyrood.org/deep-dives](http://www.theholyrood.org/deep-dives)

To complete the reflection sheet, visit...

[www.theholyrood.org/dd-reflection](http://www.theholyrood.org/dd-reflection)

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



**Ash Wednesday Mass • February 22**  
Refer to schedule on page 2

**Three Pillars of Lent with Reconciliation**  
Wednesday, February 22 • St. Mary Parish Hall  
3 - 4 pm or 5 - 6 pm

**Soup and Stations - Fridays of Lent: 6-7 pm**  
St. Margaret • February 24, March 17  
St. John • March 3, March 24  
St. Mary • March 10, March 31

**Family Movie Night • St. John Parish Hall**  
Saturday, February 25 • 5-7 pm

## 1, 475 THANK YOU'S!

On behalf of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, the Family Faith Formation Team would like to thank EVERYONE who has participated in our service project to support the SVdP Food Pantry thus far.

As a result of YOUR generosity, Faith Formation donated a total of \$1,475 worth of Market Basket, Target, and Walmart gift cards to the SVdP Society.

These gift cards go directly into the hands of our in-need collaborative families.

In an effort to continue supporting the important work that SVdP does, Faith Formation will continue collecting gift cards at all Class Sessions and Deep Dives through the end of May...

Gift Cards To The Following Stores Are Most In Need:  
Market Basket | Target | Walmart

## 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!**





## FEBRUARY FAITH IN ACTION

Grades  
3-6

### Challenge of the Month

Turn off the television, ignore phone calls and focus on one another

Make your family a priority this month. Sit down to eat a meal together at least once a week this month. Begin your meal by praying the Prayer Before Meals or a similar prayer. Have everyone share about their day. Then, clean up the dishes together.

*"If it doesn't challenge you, it doesn't change you."*

### Heavenly Hall of Fame

February 3—Feast Day of St. Blaise



He was both a doctor and a bishop in Armenia or Turkey. One legend that is told about him is that wild animals came to him to treat their wounds. Another is that a small boy was choking on a fish bone and Blaise saved his life by saying a prayer and blessing him with candles crossed upon his throat. Thus, St. Blaise is the patron saint of people with diseases of the

throat. In honor of St. Blaise's feast day, we celebrated the blessing of the throats at all our Masses on the weekend of February 4th/5th. Two unlit candles are crossed over the throat as the priest/deacon says a prayer of blessing.

### Devotion of the Month—Prayer to the Holy Family



JESUS, Son of God and Son of Mary, bless our family. Graciously inspire in us unity, peace, and mutual love that you found in your own family.

MARY, Mother of Jesus and our mother, nourish our family with your faith and your love. Keep us close to your Son, Jesus, in all our sorrows and joys.

JOSEPH, foster-father to Jesus, guardian and spouse of Mary, keep our family safe from harm. Help us in times of discouragement or anxiety.

HOLY FAMILY OF NAZARETH, make our family one with you. Help us to be instruments of peace. Grant that love, strengthened by grace, may proven mightier than all the weaknesses and trials through which our family sometimes passes. May we always have God at the center of our hearts and home until we are all one family, happy and at peace.

### Bible Story

David and Jonathan [1 Samuel 18: 1-5]

Just like God used Jonathan to love David and support him through battle and becoming king, God uses family members in our lives to love us, support us, and help us to grow. God can also use us in this way in the lives of our family members.



# REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

2023 CATHOLIC HEART WORK CAMP

JULY 16-21 • NORTH HALEDON, NJ

[www.theholyrood.org/catholic-heart-work-camp](http://www.theholyrood.org/catholic-heart-work-camp)

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



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.**



A few years ago, I was on vacation in Prague with Mark, a priest friend of mine. We decided to take a tour of the city, and right after we sat down on the bus a family came aboard. It was a grandmother, her daughter and

husband, and two grandchildren. I was seated in the very back of the bus behind Mark. The family was clearly hoping to sit together and the only place to do that was in the back seat where there were five seats. I offered to move so they could sit with each other and then I sat next to Mark. At this point all of us got to talking and remained together throughout the tour which lasted about two hours. At the end of the tour, the mother asked me what Mark and I did for work and my response was, "We are Catholic priests." At that the grandmother turned to her daughter and said, "See, I told you." She then asked me if I would hear her confession. Her daughter said, "Mom, they are on vacation." I responded, "We are never on vacation from that." We then found an isolated spot that was quiet, and she went to confession.

I never asked what made her think we were priests, and now part of me will always wonder. But, to me, it brings up the question of how people perceive who we are. As I tell people, we are always in relationship with our perception of someone. What we all need to realize is that our perception of someone is not always reality. But it is "our reality" of the person. The truth is that as a priest, and particularly as a pastor, I am perceived in many different ways. I know that there are people who truly like me, and others who do not—at all. There are those who believe I am doing a good job, and there are those who think I am wrecking their parish. There are those who find me open and supportive, and those who find me unwelcoming and intimidating. There are those who find in me a way to move closer to Christ, and those who believe that I am a roadblock. I obviously could go on and on. The truth and reality is that a person's perception of me is based on many factors: how they hear what I say; their experience of our time together; even, honestly, their own history; and, of course, what they are hoping to accomplish through our interaction. There are, of course, other factors, but you get the point: someone's perception of me is not something I can control. And it is not my job to try to influence another person's perception. Rather, as a Christian, what I am called to do is simply come to discern the person God created me to be, and to seek to grow in that understanding. My focus can never be on what another's perception is: it must only be on God's knowledge of who I truly am.

If we look to the Gospels, we can see clearly that people had many different perceptions of who Jesus

was. He even asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And the answers He received went all over the place until He asked, "But who do *you* say that I am?" And Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." In response, Jesus was clear that this insight did not come from Peter alone, but that he able to see the truth of Jesus through the grace of God. Many people did not like Jesus. They did not like what He stood for. They did not like the challenges that He presented to them. They did not like how Jesus did not conform to the status quo: they sought to attack and belittle what He did. They cast aspersions upon how He could work miracles and what his motives were. But Jesus simply did not care about their perceptions of who He was or what He did. Jesus stayed focused on the only thing that mattered to Him, which was fulfilling the Father's will. He understood the person God was calling Him to be, and if people liked that and were drawn to Him—great! If they were not, He simply let them walk away.

Jesus had no illusions about where all this would lead Him. He made it clear that He would be crucified but that God would overcome and raise Him from the dead. He had confidence in God and trusted that the Father would always provide. It may not always have been what He wanted, but his response was always the same, "Not my will but yours."

We live in a world that cares usually more about perception than reality. As Christians we are called to look at life very differently. We must first realize that even our perception of ourself may be wrong. Each of us, through prayer, needs to seek *God's* understanding of us, which is never a perception—it is always reality. He has our instruction book and knows exactly who we are and who we can be. We have to be willing to let go of our own flawed sense of self in order to discover the person God created us to be. It is not about what we might want for ourselves; rather, it is about what God wants for us, which is always for our good.

Once we are truly open to discerning and growing into the person God has created us to be—and that is truly our focus—it will not matter what the perceptions of others may be. May we follow the example of Jesus and, like Him, truly grow in wisdom and understanding of ourselves by simply living out these words, "Not my will but yours."

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](mailto:fr.brian@theholyrood.org), or call me at (978) 254-0560.

Please keep me in your prayers.

## From our Pastoral Associate

Sr. Lori Fleming, SNDdeN

### Make Time to Remember the Sick and Caregivers

World Day of the Sick is observed each year on February 11<sup>th</sup>—a Marian feast day many know as celebrating Mary as Our Lady of Lourdes, and acclaiming the healing powers of the springs of water where Mary appeared to Bernadette.

In naming this day as World Day of the Sick, the Church calls our attention to the fact that sickness affects all of humanity, and calls upon all of humanity to respond with care and empathy. As followers of Christ, we know that Christ brings healing—physical and spiritual to those who ask for healing and to those whom others bring to him for healing.

Pope Francis reminds us that this day offers an opportunity to reflect on the experience of illness. Such reflection is appropriate and necessary because our culture and our busyness can lull us into ignoring the existence of sickness until it touches us personally or touches our family and friends. The papal message on this 31<sup>st</sup> World Day of the Sick is entitled: *“Take care of him”—Compassion as a synodal exercise of healing.* In light of the Church’s synodal journey, Pope Francis invites “all of us to reflect on the fact that it is especially through the experience of vulnerability and illness that we can learn to walk together according to the style of God, which is closeness, compassion, and tenderness.”

Pope Francis attests that care and empathy are demonstrated by focusing awareness and attention on the responsibility of being neighborly, living together as community, together building the Kingdom here on earth. *“The parable (of the Good Samaritan) shows us how a community can be rebuilt by men and women who identify with the vulnerability of others, who reject the creation of a society of exclusion, and act instead as neighbors, lifting up and rehabilitating the fallen for the sake of the common good.”*

We are reminded that healthcare providers are also people who need “someone to take care of them.” We are encouraged to recognize their service, defend their right to suitable working conditions, and to advocate for a limit on the number of patients that healthcare workers are expected to care for during their workday.

Let’s pray that we become a community that truly walks together with compassion.

## From our Parochial Vicar

Fr. Fernando Ayala

### Three gods or one God?

Dear family, we testify in our Creed on Sundays that we believe in “one God,” yet in the same Creed we also profess that we believe in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. What does it all mean? Which one is it? Do we have three gods? At the risk of confusing some of you, I think it will be profitable to attempt an explanation of this mystery, even if just a little.

First and foremost, we believe that God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit constitute the Holy Trinity. We know this through the scriptures. In other words, we know this because God has told us. If it were not due to God telling us, we would have never been able to know this on our own. This is such a great mystery that we cannot fully understand it. We need God to help us. However, God has given us a great capacity for intellect or reason, which we can make use of to understand this mystery better. Nevertheless, we can only get so far.

In order to understand this mystery, let us think about the Trinity in terms of relationships. Think for instance about your relationships to others. You are probably a sibling to some of your family members, a parent to your children, or a child to your parents. As an example, let us consider a hypothetical person named John. John is a brother, a father, and a son. He is John the brother, John the father, and John the son. Different relationships yet the same John. He has not changed but remains the same John—not different Johns.

In an analogous way, we have one God yet three persons or in this example, three relationships. The relationship of the Father to the Son; the relationship of the Son to the Father; and the relationship of the Father and the Son to the Holy Spirit. Three persons in one God. Each person is the same God, not different gods.

When we pray, we can pray to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The Father loves the Son. The Son is the beloved of the Father. And the Holy Spirit is Love itself: the love that exists between the Father and the Son. Are we praying to love like the Father—as it was in the beginning? To be loved like the Son—as it is now? Or to become love to others, like the Holy Spirit—as it shall always be?



# THE FORTY DAYS OF LENT

have one overriding purpose: to help the Christian Community prepare itself to celebrate the Sacred Triduum of Holy Thursday (*Mass of the Lord's Supper*), Good Friday (*Celebration of the Passion of Our Lord*), Holy Saturday (*The Easter Vigil*) and Easter with mind and heart renewed.

Lent reminds us of our Baptism, which is based upon God's Holy Word, conferred through the gift of divine life. We are called to commit to live always with repentance and faith as members of God's Holy People. Although it necessarily directs attention to our sins and shortcomings, Lent ought to enliven our hope, and help us love God and neighbor more generously.

These uplifting purposes should govern our approach to all Lenten practices and observances. Penances—especially the ancient trilogy of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving—address interior resistance and external obstacles to faith and charity, but only in order to bind us more closely to God and neighbor. Liturgical celebrations ought to promote our hearing of God's Word, recall key moments in the life and ministry of Jesus, and energize us to live as befits a people of faith.

In calling us once again to “*repent and believe in the Gospel*,” Lent also places at our disposal the resources of the Church and its Tradition. Our Lenten schedule makes some of those resources more readily available. We hope that it will help you to find what you need to embrace this season with faith, gratitude, and hope.

## ABSTINENCE AND FASTING

**ABSTINENCE:** Catholics over 14 years of age are bound to the obligations of abstinence. Abstinence (no meat) is to be observed on Ash Wednesday, Fridays of Lent and Good Friday.

**FASTING:** Catholics over the age of 18 and up to the beginning of their 60<sup>th</sup> year are bound to the obligation of fasting. Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all Fridays of Lent, are defined as the days of fasting. On these days, only 1 full meatless meal is allowed. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted; but liquids, including milk and fruit juices, are allowed.

**THE SACRED PASCHAL FAST:** The Paschal Fast should also be kept sacred. It is to be celebrated everywhere on the Friday of the Lord's Passion and, where appropriate, prolonged also through Holy Saturday as a way of coming, with spirit uplifted, to the joys of the Lord's Resurrection.

**DISPENSATION FOR 2023:** This year, the Feast of St. Patrick, the patron saint of our Archdiocese, falls on a Friday during Lent. Given the importance of this feast in the life of the Archdiocese and in the lives of many Catholics, Cardinal Sean is granting dispensation from the Friday Lenten abstinence on March 17, 2023, to those who wish to take advantage of this opportunity. This is a one day only dispensation.

## LENTEN ALMSGIVING

Our Collaborative Social Justice Committee has again, for its International Initiative, committed to support our Sister Parish, Our Lady Star of the Sea, in Sierra Leone, West Africa.

During this Lenten Season, we will be conducting an Almsgiving collection to support this parish, which is deeply dedicated to serving its community through corporal and spiritual works of mercy. Your material and goods donations in years past have helped this community in a number of profound ways.

This year, you may donate via online giving, available through all of our churches. If you would like to donate by check, please make checks payable to either St. John the Evangelist, St. Mary or St. Margaret of Scotland and note 'Lenten Almsgiving' in the memo. Please do NOT make check out to The Holy Rood Collaborative as it is not a financial entity.

Tune in to a later bulletin for an article that further describes our history and relationship with this beautiful community.



Join us on our annual Lenten pilgrimage, beginning Ash Wednesday, February 22  
ending with the Triduum—beginning April 6th—culminating in

*Easter Joy* on April 9th

## OUR LENTEN Journey

THESE FORTY DAYS OF LENT

### SOUP AND STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fridays of Lent at 6 pm

St. Margaret: February 24 and March 17  
Stations at 6 pm followed by soup and fellowship

St. John: March 3 and 24  
Soup at 6 pm; Stations at 7 pm

at St. Mary: March 10 and 31  
Soup at 6 pm; Stations at 7 pm



The Stations will also be prayed via St. John LIVEVIEW—or in person—on Tuesdays of Lent following Divine Mercy Chaplet

### LENTEN CONFESSION SCHEDULE

The Light is on For You: Wednesday Evenings  
6:30 - 8:00 pm at all three churches  
March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29/ April 5

Our regular confession schedule will continue throughout Lent with the exception of Wednesday, St. Mary Confessions being CANCELLED due to The Light Is On For You.



### A LENTEN RETREAT AT ST. JOHN'S HOLY HOUR W/MUSIC AND A SERVICE PROJECT

Sunday, February 26 and Monday February 27 • 7 - 8:30

We will begin with Exposition of the Holy Eucharist and an Opening Reflection. You can then choose to continue with Adoration, with live music, or join us downstairs for an activity centered on the evening's theme. We will then regroup for group discussion and end with Benediction.

**Sunday Theme: Feed the Hungry**

Celebrant: Deacon John

Music: Contemporary; Matt Hussey

Activity: Sandwich Making for Lowell Transitional Living Center

**Monday Theme: Comfort the Sorrowful**

Celebrant: Deacon John

Music: Traditional; St. John and St. Mary Music Ministries

Activity: Card Making for those in our collaborative community

### LENTEN BLUES

HYMNS AND PSALMS FOR THE LENTEN JOURNEY

7 pm • Tuesday, March 14 • St. Mary Church

Join us as we listen to the many blues and gospel songs found in our sacred music repertoire and hear how many of them embrace the Lenten themes of redemption, penance and mercy.

### SCRIPTURE, SONG AND PRAYER

7 pm • Thursday, March 23 • St. John Church

Come alone or bring the family! This evening of scripture, song and prayer is for ALL ages!

### PALM SUNDAY CANTATA

3 pm • Sunday, April 2 • St. John Church

A Cantata focused on the themes of Holy Week.

### TENEBRAE A SERVICE OF SHADOWS

7 pm • Wednesday, April 5 • St. Margaret Church

A solemn celebration as we enter Holy Week.

### A LENTEN MORNING RETREAT

COME AWAY TO LISTEN TO GOD WITHIN  
SO WE MAY LIVE AS ALLELUIA PEOPLE

Saturday, March 25 • 10—11:30 am  
St. Margaret Chapel and Sacred Heart Hall

FR. BRIAN PRESENTS...

### THE PASSION NARRATIVES

Monday Evenings • 7:30—8:30  
St. Mary Church (in-person or LIVEVIEW)  
March 6, 13, 20, 27

Fr. Brian will lead us through the passion narratives, helping us to understand how each teaches us something different about Jesus' death and resurrection, while connecting it to the particular theology of each gospel writer.

For details on all available ways to remember a loved one,  
visit us at [www.theholyrood.org/remember-a-loved-one](http://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 you schedule your intention.

## St. John the Evangelist

<b>SAT, FEB 11</b>	4:00 pm:	People of the Parish
<b>SUN, FEB 12</b>	9:30 am:	For those who have no one to pray for them
	12:00 pm:	Tweneh Family giving thanks to God and praying for God's protection; Mary Okpe, John and Peter Magbondi, and all Ancestors
<b>MON, FEB 13</b>	9:00 am:	Members of the Spiritual Society and Renewal Fund
<b>TUE, FEB 14</b>	9:00 am:	Robert Cole: Memorial
<b>FRI, FEB 17</b>	9:00 am:	Guadalupe Miranda: Memorial
<b>SAT, FEB 18</b>	4:00 pm:	Paul W Myers: 30th Anniversary
<b>SUN, FEB 19</b>	9:30 am:	William Mahoney: 19th Anniversary
	12:00 pm:	Veronica Nyarko giving thanks to God for her 50th Birthday
	6:00 pm:	People of the Parish

## St. Margaret of Scotland

<b>SAT, FEB 11</b>	4:00 pm:	Rita Lessieur: 19th Anniversary
<b>SUN, FEB 12</b>	7:00 am:	Dorothy Wilkins: 10th Anniversary
	11:00 am:	People of the Parish
<b>MON, FEB 13</b>	8:00 am:	John Burbank: Memorial
<b>FRI, FEB 17</b>	8:00 am:	John Burbank: Memorial
<b>SAT, FEB 18</b>	4:00 pm:	People of the Parish
<b>SUN, FEB 19</b>	7:30 am:	LIVING INTENTION: Anne and Robert Higgins: 68th Wedding Anniversary
	10:00 am:	Joey and Terry Tormey: Memorial

## St. Mary Parish

<b>SAT, FEB 11</b>	4:00 pm:	Raymond Anstiss: 13th Anniversary
<b>SUN, FEB 12</b>	7:30 am:	George Goguen: 12th Anniversary
	10:00 am:	People of the Parish
<b>MON, FEB 13</b>	7:00 am:	James Gamble: Memorial
<b>TUE, FEB 14</b>	7:00 am:	Thomas Francis "Frank" O'Donoghue: Month's Mind
<b>WED, FEB 15</b>	7:00 am:	Lynda Hague: 4th Anniversary
<b>THU, FEB 16</b>	7:00 am:	Ronald Barth: 2nd Anniversary
<b>SAT, FEB 18</b>	4:00 pm:	People of the Parish
<b>SUN, FEB 19</b>	7:00 am:	Michael Slattery: 9th Anniversary and Patrick Slattery: 8th Anniversary
	11:00 am:	Men Returning from the ACTS Retreat

## 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.



## Lamps

Each of our churches offers the opportunity to have the sanctuary lamps burn in Memory of a loved one. St. Margaret also has two additional lamps—the Blessed Mother Lamp (found to the left of the altar) and the Sacred Heart Lamp (found to the right of the altar). The stipend for any of these lamps is \$25, and your dedication will be published in the bulletin.

## 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.



## Recent Funerals

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



### Francis Diaz

Friday, February 3 • St. Margaret

### Edward Woodlock

Friday, February 3 • St. John

### John Francis Welch

Monday, February 6 • St. John

### Bernard Queenan

Saturday, January 14 • St. John

### Thomas O'Donoghue

Wednesday, January 18 • St. Mary



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