



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 19, 2023

Seventh 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

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 20

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
 SM 4 pm Choir Rehearsal • 7 - 8 pm • SM Hall

Tuesday, February 21

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

Ash Wednesday, February 22

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

Adoration • 9 am - 3 pm • SMS OLL Chapel
 Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3 pm • SJE Church and LIVEVIEW
 Hope after Heartbreak • 6:30 - 8 pm • SM PC Room 5
 Rosary • 7 pm • SM Church and LIVEVIEW

Thursday, February 23

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 Church

Friday, February 24

Knitting and Crocheting • 2 - 4 pm • SM Hall
 Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3 pm • SJE Church and LIVEVIEW
 Soup and Stations • 6 pm soup followed by Stations • SMS
 Evening of Lenten Reflection (see page 13) • 5 - 8pm • SJE Church
 Italian Shrines Information Night • 7 pm • SJE Hall

Saturday, February 25

St. Mary Men's Group • 7:45 - 8:45 am • SM PC Conf Room 1
 SJE Hospitality Meeting • 9:30 - 11 am • SJE Hall
 Hope and Healing Support Group • 10:30 am - 12 pm • SJE OPC
 Confessions • 11 am - 12 pm: SM | 1 - 2 pm: SMS | 3 - 3:45 pm: SJE
 Protecting God's Children Workshop • 1 - 4 pm • SM Hall
 St. Mary Bell Choir Rehearsal • 2:30 - 3:30 pm • SM Choir Loft
 Family Movie Night (RSVP REQUIRED. SEE PAGE 8) • 5 pm • SJE Hall

Sunday, February 26

Lenten Retreat (SEE PAGE 13) • 7 - 8:30 pm • SJE Church and Hall



Due to the Presidents Day Holiday, the parish offices will be closed on Monday, February 20.

The St. Mary Table Ministry served

65 in January and February at



Weekend Mass Attendance

Weekend Of February 11/12

St. Mary		
4 pm	7 am	11 am
165	125	256
St. Margaret of Scotland		
4 pm	7:30 am	10 am
84	50	130
St. John the Evangelist		
4 pm	9:30 am	6 pm
177	242	69



What did the horse say when he fell?

(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
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

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 233

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 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. 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

TICKETS AVAILABLE NEXT WEEKEND

Tickets (\$25 per) will be sold after ALL Mass at ALL three churches as well as online at bit.ly/3XzDEqj. They will also be available for purchase in the parish offices through Monday, March 6.

TICKETS WILL NOT BE SOLD AT THE DOOR. IN ADVANCE SALES ONLY!



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

Saturday, March 11

St. John Parish Hall

Doors Open at 5 pm/ Dinner Service at 5:45 pm

MENU: Corned Beef* and Cabbage
Bring your own beer and/or wine

ENTERTAINMENT: Live Music, Raffle and Door Prize



* provided by
Alpine Butcher in Lowell

answer: I can't giddy up

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.



This year, our Collaborative will be welcoming 4 individuals into the Church at the Easter Vigil through the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.

As we enter the Season of Lent these 4 individuals will be entering the final phases of their preparation to become Catholic Christians. We ask that

you keep them in prayer, along with the one adult who is preparing to come into full communion with the Catholic Church through the Sacrament of Confirmation.

So we can pray for them by name, please note below...

**Blitz, Grayson, Mary Jane,
Treasure and Laurie**

Next week on this First Sunday of Lent, at the St. Mary 11 am Mass, they will participate in **The Rite of Sending**. This Rite "affords the parish community the opportunity to express its approval, to rejoice in the decision of these individuals to receive the sacraments of initiation, and to assure the Catechumens and Candidates of the community's care and support."



Following the celebration of this Rite, the Catechumens will travel to the Cathedral to participate in the **Rite of Election**. At the Rite of Election, the Catechumens will become the Elect, as this rite takes its name from the fact that here, "acting in God's name, the Church makes its 'election,' that is, the choice and admission of those catechumens who have the dispositions that make them fit to take part in the Sacraments of Initiation."

Later in the Lenten Season, the Elect will participate in the 3 Scrutinies. More on that in the coming weeks...

Rood Collaborative community

Thursday, March 9 • 6 - 8 pm
St. Margaret Chapel and Sacred Heart Hall

Back by popular demand! The Capuchins will be back to visit with us. Join them, alongside fellow parishioners, and learn more about this ministry and how and why they serve! A service project to support this ministry will be done as part of this evening.



SPIRITUAL RESOURCES
FOR THE STREET

Capuchin Mobile Ministries is a ministry of spiritual caregiving to the homeless community of Greater Boston. Several times a week, friars and volunteers head out in their well-recognized van to areas where the homeless congregate. They provide

food and drink, offer spiritual resources and referrals to social services, listen to their stories, and pray with them.

IMPORTANT TO NOTE:

The Capuchins are asking for donations of socks (new, packs of any kind, any number), items of spiritual care (new or gently used rosaries, spiritual cards, etc.) and goodwill financial donations to help provide for the ministry's physical and financial needs. **Please bring your donation(s) with you on the evening of the event!** Thank you, in advance, for your generosity!



**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>



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! To learn more about this pilgrimage, please join Deacon John for an Information Night...

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

For more information visit... www.pilgrimages.com/dcnhunt

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; click on the stewardship tab

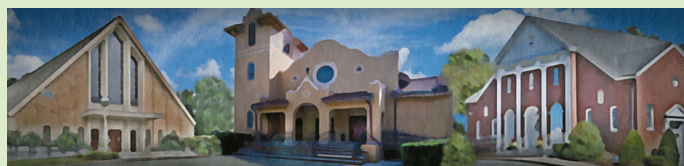
IMPORTANT DONATION REMINDER

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 11/12	Fiscal Year-To-Date February 12	Fiscal YTD Average/Week
Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses	\$15,000	\$480,000	\$15,000
Actual Received	\$14,046	\$447,550	\$13,986
Shortfall/ Overage	-\$954	-\$32,450	-\$1,014

ST. JOHN WEEKLY OFFERTORY	Weekend of February 11/12	Fiscal Year-To-Date February 12	Fiscal YTD Average/Week
Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses	\$10,300	\$329,600	\$10,300
Actual Received	\$8,436	\$287,367	\$8,980
Shortfall/ Overage	-\$1,864	-\$42,233	-\$1,320

ST. MARGARET WEEKLY OFFERTORY	Weekend of February 11/12	Fiscal Year-To-Date February 12	Fiscal YTD Average/Week
Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses	\$4,800	\$153,600	\$4,800
Actual Received	\$5,421	\$138,129	\$4,317
Shortfall/ Overage	\$621	-\$15,471	-\$483



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 FEBRUARY 12

	Goal	Raised	%age of Goal
St. Mary	\$100,000	\$71,530	71.53%
St. John	\$70,000	\$51,161	73.09%
St. Margaret	\$65,000	\$58,117	89.41%



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...

Retirement Savings and Distribution Planning



March 2 at 7:30 pm EST

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

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.

When
registering,
please enter
'Council



**Knights of
Columbus®**

**9275' so that our council will receive
credit for your attendance. Thank you!**

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



BETANIA II
Catholic Evangelization Center

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

VIRTUS® Protecting God's Children Workshops

The Archdiocese of Boston requires ALL volunteers and employees aged 18 and over, regardless of the ministry in which they volunteer, to attend and complete a one-time "VIRTUS-Protecting God's Children" workshop. In order to assist our volunteers in fulfilling this requirement, we have scheduled two workshops here in the Collaborative:

Saturday, Feb 25 • 1- 4 pm • St. Mary Parish Hall
Space Left! Registration Still Open!!!

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 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.

Clothing Collection to Benefit the Epilepsy Foundation and BSA Troop 77 Chelmsford

When: February 3rd to April 15th, 2023

What: We are collecting used clothing, shoes, and linens
(towels, sheets, curtains, etc.)

Where: Drop off in bins are located at:

[Drum Hill Storage Solutions](#)

59 Parkhurst Road, Chelmsford

Monday – Friday • 8:30 am – 5 pm

Saturday • 8 am – 3 pm/ Sunday • 9 am – 1 pm

[St. Mary Parish Hall](#)

Wednesday Nights/ 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Thank you for supporting this worthy cause!

Questions? Please contact Liz Tighe
Troop 77 Fundraising Coordinator at (978) 606 3732



**VACATION
BIBLE FUN 2023**

July 31–August 4

Details Coming Soon...

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

FEBRUARY CLASS SCHEDULE

CONFIRMATION I - SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26

4:15 - 5:45 PM • St. John Parish Hall
"Going Deeper in Rote Prayer"

FEBRUARY FAITH IN ACTION

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.

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 prove 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.

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

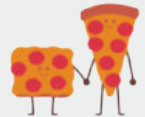
For descriptions, please visit ...

www.theholyrood.org/deep-dives

To complete the reflection sheet, visit...

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 (**NO RECONCILIATION**)

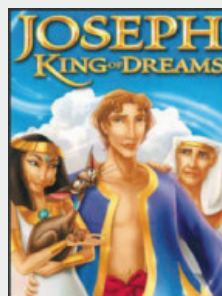
Wednesday, February 22 • St. Mary Parish Hall
3 - 4 pm or 5 - 6 pm

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

To make sure that we have enough pizza, popcorn and beverages, **please RSVP via:**

<https://theholyroodcollab.flocknote.com/signup/113621>

A number of participants attended the drawing in anticipation of their ticket being the lucky winner of the Grand Prize and for the third time since our Bonanza Drawings began in 2011, the Grand Prize Winner was in attendance! Congratulations to Walter "Mickey" McAndrews and Bob Murch, winners of the \$5,000 Bonanza with Ticket # 266. Debbie McAndrews (Mickey's wife) was in attendance and overjoyed and we were so happy for her!

A heartfelt thank you goes out to the many individuals who were instrumental in the planning, implementation, sale of tickets and Grand Raffle Drawing and the great advertising Christine Trznadel did in promoting this event. Our biggest THANK YOU goes out to all of you who purchased a ticket(s) in support of St. Margaret of Scotland Parish (and our "sink upgrade project") and all who braved the frigid cold temperatures to attend the event! We appreciate your continued support!

\$5,000 BONANZA

ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND FUNDRAISER

eleventh annual

AND THE WINNERS ARE...

\$5,000 GRAND PRIZE WINNER (#266)

Walter "Mickey" McAndrews of Lowell and
Bob Murch of North Port, Florida
accepted by Mickey's Wife, Debbie-photo top left

\$500 Winner (#13): Dawn King of Billerica

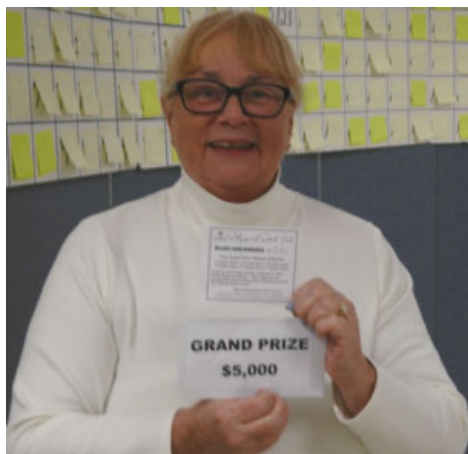
\$500 (#139): Catherine Curran of No Chelmsford

\$400 Winner (#264): John Parker of Westford

\$300 Winner (#276): Chad and Krista Groenwoldt of No Chelmsford

\$200 Winner (#208): Ron and Mary Bator of North Chelmsford

\$100 Winner (#121): Don and Cathie Denomme of Lowell





This past summer I took a motorcycle trip to West Virginia with my friend, Father David. When I was setting up the reservation for our cabin, the person who was working with me warned me not to use a GPS.

She said the GPS would take us twenty miles out of the way and she could give us the correct directions when the time got closer. I thanked her for her help, and Father David eventually got her directions when the time for our departure got closer.

It was about a ten-hour ride, and we made sure we left early enough to be able to do the ride in one day. But we ran into a problem on I-95 in Virginia: something was clearly wrong. We appeared to have missed the exit we needed to take, and the clouds in the sky were looking ominous. You could see flashes of lightening in the distance but there was no rain—*yet*. Moreover, at this point we had ridden about twelve hours and were very tired. Since it was getting late and we were heading into a major storm, we decided it was best to get off the highway and find a hotel for the night. In the morning, we decided to use our GPS to find the way to our cabin. As we got back on the highway heading north, we came to realize what was wrong with the original directions. The exit that it told us to take did not have the actual exit number. Rather, it had the route number of the highway we should take, but the exit sign had a different highway number. Using the GPS, we eventually arrived at our destination. It was about a three-hour ride.

As we live out our lives we are, many times, given directions by people who are trying to be helpful. Yet, when we follow their suggestions, we end up in places we do not expect to be. Often people will tell us that we really do not need to listen to the scriptures or the Church. They offer a better way to help us get through life—one that is more in accord with what we want out of life. The problem is that, as Christians, we have a destination to get to—heaven—and the advice that people give us often takes us off course. We live in a world that assumes that everyone, except the really bad people, will get to heaven. But, as Christians, we must realize that heaven is not something that we can assume is automatically ours. No one has a right to heaven, nor can anyone earn their way to heaven. Heaven is a gift offered to us by God who in reality owes us nothing. And the only reason we can get into heaven is because of what Christ has done for us. His death and resurrection alone is what merits us heaven. Our lives are intended to be lived in cooperation with God's grace, which will heal us and lead us on the right path to heaven. His grace opens us to accept Christ's saving actions as the foundation of our life,

and gives us the strength to make Christ the center of our lives. It is so easy to lose sight of this truth. It is so easy to listen to the directions of others to listen to the world rather than God.

On Wednesday we will celebrate the beginning of Lent. Lent is an awesome time to help us stop and see how we might be lost. It can help us to refocus our lives and think about what our final destination should be. There are only two paths we can take and Jesus is clear on this: the path of salvation by following Him or the path of damnation by following the ways of the world. Lent is a time to stop and think about what course we are truly on. It is time to turn on our spiritual GPS.

How do we turn on our spiritual GPS? Lent gives us the tools to help make that happen: fasting, prayer, and almsgiving. Too often these are seen in a negative way when, in fact, they are gracious gifts given to us by God. The purpose of Lent is *not* to punish us or torture us; rather Lent is about helping us find our way to God. It is a time to stop and recalibrate our lives in order to grow in our baptismal call to holiness and deepen our conversion to Christ. The three pillars of Lent—fasting, prayer, and almsgiving—each help us to recognize the great gifts God has given us and seek to use them in a way that furthers God's kingdom in the world. They should lead us to glorify God through all that He has given us. They also help to remind us of our dependence upon God.

These three practices are called ascetical practices. And they are intended to mirror what athletes do physically to prepare for their games. Our ascetical practices get us ready for the spiritual battles that each of us will face as we draw closer to Christ. The reality is that the evil one does not want us to be in union with God, but it really is a human being's deepest desire. We are created to be union with God.

From a Catholic perspective, God created all things that exist, giving them a purpose, meaning, order and end. Our responsibility is to use God's creation only as He intends it to be used. If we act in any other way, we are choosing sin over God and that puts us on the wrong path. We are following the directions of the world rather than using the spiritual GPS that God has given to each of us. God wants us to get to heaven and He alone can show us the way. The gifts He has given us in the three ascetical practices—each in its own way—will help us to get to our destination. We will discuss how that will happen over the coming weeks of Lent.

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 Director of Faith Formation

Heather Hannaway

“The More Excellent Way of Love?”

The first book of Corinthians is the first of two letters Paul sent to the church in Corinth, to address issues plaguing the church. Paul dedicated the entire 13th chapter to emphasizing the importance of love because the lack of it is the root cause of divisions.

As February is a month that we honor love and marriage, let's explore why love is the most excellent way, and hopefully, be inspired to love one another better.

In English, the word “love” is used to describe at least four types of love relationships:

1. between members of a family
2. between friends
3. romantically, between a man and woman
4. between Christ and His Church

In the Greek language, however, there's a different word for each type of these love relationships:

1. Storge: between members of a family
2. Philia: between friends
3. Eros: romantically, between a man and woman
4. Agape: between Christ and his Church

In 1 Corinthians Paul is talking about the fourth type of love: agape. How does agape differ from the others? In a nutshell, the others are mostly to do with me while agape love is all about you! Paul shows us what the qualities of this love are in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8.

Patient: being concerned about the other person's welfare without yielding to weariness (Gal 6:9). **Kind**: of being tender in heart, speech, and actions (Eph 4:32). **Doesn't envy**: of not feeling jealous of what others have or become (Prov 14:30). **Doesn't boast**: of not telling of one's own achievements, possessions, or abilities with excessive pride (Phil 2:3). **Not proud**: being approachable, not arrogant and overbearing (Rom 12:16). **Not rude**: being genuinely courteous and polite in speech (Prov 15:1). **Not selfish**: being truly concerned about the welfare of others even if it's costly (Gal 6:2). **Slow to anger**: being long tempered or slow to express anger (Eccl 7:9). **Keeps no records of wrongs**: forgiving and not holding a grudge against the offender (Lk 6:27). **Doesn't rejoice in evil**: not gloating over another person's failures (Gal 6:1). **Rejoices with the truth**: rejoicing when the truth is revealed in the lives of others (Phil 1:18). **Bears all things**: putting up with everything if it's beneficial to the other person (Gal 6:2). **Believes all things**: being eager to believe what's best for others and to put the most favorable construction on ambiguous actions (Rom 5:8). **Hopes all things**: being hopeful that those who have failed will not fail again rather than concluding that failure is inevitable (Jn 21:15-19). **Endures all things**: not allowing oneself to become overwhelmed but persevering steadfastly through difficult trials (Rom 5:3-4).

This is the kind of love Jesus loves us with. Agape love requires humility. We must challenge ourselves and make an effort. Jesus can give us grace and the ability to love others even when we feel inadequate.

God never stops loving us. We also must love one another without ceasing. Very often we fail to love because we are unwilling to forgive. But we can love without ceasing if we forgive without ceasing.

Are you committed to walking in “The More Excellent Way of Love?” If you're struggling, take one of these verses with the accompanying bible verse and meditate on it in your daily prayer—remembering that without love, our labor means nothing!

From our Senior Priest in Residence

Fr. Arnold Colletti

Love Your Enemies

In order to fully appreciate the very real and radical character of the ethic to which Jesus called his disciples, we might draw up an enemy list. Jesus says, “Love your enemies.” Just who are your enemies? Whether it be an historical or a political figure of the past or present, a personal foe, an opponent, someone who regards you as an enemy, or someone against whom you harbor an unchecked resentment or animosity, to actually name the person is to concretize the challenge of the Christian. Do good to _____ bless _____ and pray for _____.

To love one's enemies must be a learned response. Where is this learned? First, we look to Jesus on the cross and then to Paul. In the midst of his sufferings Jesus cried out, “Father, forgive them.” Forgive whom? Pilate? The high priest? The rabid crowd? The soldiers? The disciples who deserted him?

From dying, praying and forgiving Jesus, we turn to Paul who reminds us that it was “while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of Jesus.” (Rom 5:10). From Paul and Jesus, we learn that the enemy is not them, or her, or him but us... you, me and every other sinner for whom Jesus came, conquered sin, died and rose again in glory.

When Jesus says, “Love your enemies,” He is not talking about love as an emotion but as a conscious and free act of the will. While it may be impossible to feel love for an enemy, it is not impossible to act in certain ways, even toward those whom experience has shown to be the most entrenched of opponents.

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

WHY NO MUSIC DURING LENT? by Mike Stack, Music Director, St. Mary Church

As Catholics, we are called to sacrifice for Lent, engaging in self-control and self-reflection through fasting and abstaining. A lot of us “give up” something we love for Lent. It turns out, this is true of our music as well.

In Lent, we give up the Gloria and the Alleluia. Both expressions of deep joy in praising God, in this more solemn time, we put them aside, the Gloria omitted completely, the Alleluia replaced. It is through this that we create one of my favorite musical moments in the church—the Gloria and the Alleluia triumphant at the Easter Vigil in the midst of the story of Salvation History.

But there’s more to it than just those two hymns--- instrumental music is forbidden at Mass during Lent—you’ll notice that we do away with long hymn introductions and instrumental verses during Lent. Our instruments only support singing. And likewise, we only sing the songs that are our response during the Mass like the Psalm and Holy or during the entrance, offertory and Communion processions. We do not sing at other times—including before and after Mass, after Communion, and perhaps most starkly, as we leave the church after the Dismissal, we depart in silence.

The Church in its wisdom does grant us a reprieve from this: Laetare Sunday—the fourth Sunday of Lent. A day of joyful anticipation of the coming Resurrection, akin to Gaudete Sunday in Advent with its pink candle, we don’t sing Alleluias or Glorias, but we do embrace all our other hymns and traditions. But other than that, it gets a little quieter in our churches until we get to Easter, when we can shout our Alleluias with joy: I expect to hear every one of you singing it with us!

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 60th 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.

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.

Note the addition to our Lenten Event Calendar ➡

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 some in our collaborative community

FR. PATRICK PRESENTS...

HE DIED TO SET US FREE

An evening of Lenten Reflection including Adoration, Rosary, Confession, Stations of the Cross and Holy Mass.

5 - 8 pm • Friday, February 24 • St. John Church

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

TENEBRAE A SERVICE OF SHADOWS

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

FR. ANTONIO PRESENTS...

A LENTEN MORNING RETREAT

Saturday, March 25 • 10 - 11:30 am

St. Margaret Chapel and Sacred Heart Hall

Come away to listen to God within so we may live as Alleluia people

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.



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 18	4:00 pm:	Paul W Myers: 30th Anniversary
SUN, FEB 19	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
MON, FEB 20	9:00 am:	Evangeline Manolopoulos: Memorial
TUE, FEB 21	9:00 am:	LIVING INTENTION: Healing for Jane Carrier
THU, FEB 23	9:00 am:	Sebastian Poondikulam: Memorial
FRI, FEB 24	9:00 am:	For those whose funerals were celebrated at St. John's this past month
SAT, FEB 25	4:00 pm:	Maurice Pontbriant Sr: Memorial
SUN, FEB 26	9:30 am:	Daniel Conroy: Memorial
	12:00 pm:	LIVING INTENTION: Patricia Ababio Birthday
	6:00 pm:	People of the Parish

St. Margaret of Scotland

SAT, FEB 18	4:00 pm:	People of the Parish
SUN, FEB 19	7:30 am:	LIVING INTENTION: Anne and Robert Higgins: 68th Wedding Anniversary
	10:00 am:	Joey and Terry Tormey: Memorial
MON, FEB 20	8:00 am:	William Bomil Sr: 15th Anniversary
TUE, FEB 21	8:00 am:	Ruth O'Hagan: 102nd Birthday Memorial
THU, FEB 23	8:00 am:	Sally Sweeney: 4th Anniversary
FRI, FEB 24	8:00 am:	For those whose funerals were celebrated at St. Margaret's this past month
SAT, FEB 25	4:00 pm:	Frank LaPan: Memorial
SUN, FEB 26	7:30 am:	People of the Parish
	10:00 am:	Stephen J Gilbride & Carey E Posey: Memorial

St. Mary Parish

SAT, FEB 18	4:00 pm:	People of the Parish
SUN, FEB 19	7:00 am:	Michael Slattery: 9th Anniversary and Patrick Slattery: 8th Anniversary
	11:00 am:	Men Returning from the ACTS Retreat
MON, FEB 20	7:00 am:	Lourdes Reyes: 93rd Birthday Memorial
TUE, FEB 21	7:00 am:	Nelson McCarthy: Birthday Memorial
THU, FEB 23	7:00 am:	All living members of Albin A Hastbacka Family
FRI, FEB 24	7:00 am:	For those whose funerals were celebrated at St. Mary's this past month
SAT, FEB 25	4:00 pm:	Adam Jacobs: Memorial
SUN, FEB 26	7:00 am:	People of the Parish
	11:00 am:	Deena A McMillian: Memorial

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.



St. Margaret Blessed Mother Lamp
In Memory of Rose and Bob Langlois

Recent Funerals

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



Yvette Beaudoin

Wednesday, February 15 • St. Mary

James Dolan, Sr

Thursday, February 16 • St. John

Tina Ducharme

Thursday, February 16 • St. Mary

Sean Evans

Friday, February 17 • St. Mary

Donald Pare

Friday, February 17 • St. Margaret

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