

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



March 12, 2023 Third Sunday of Lent

Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God and who is saying to you. 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."



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

• through Lent: 6:30 - 8 pm • all churches

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, March 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 SM 4 pm Choir Rehearsal • 7 pm • SM Hall Fr. Brian: Passion Narratives [see pg 5] • 7 pm • SM Church

Tuesday, March 14

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

Wednesday, March 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 SM Youth Choir Rehearsal • 4:45 5:45 pm • SM Hall The Light is on for You (Confession) • 6:30 - 8 pm • All Churches Rosary • 7 pm • SM Church and LIVEVIEW

Thursday, March 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
Rosary • 7 pm • SM Church and LIVEVIEW
St. Mary 11 am Choir and Ensemble Rehearsal • 7:30 pm • SM Church

Friday, March 17

Blood Pressure/Health Screening, following 8 am Mass • SMS Hall Knitting and Crocheting • 2 - 4 pm • SM Hall Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3 pm • SJE Church and LIVEVIEW Soup and Stations • 6 pm Stations/7 pm Soup • SMS Church/Hall

Saturday, March 18

Saturday Men • 7 - 8:45 am • SJE NPC Linehan Men of St. Joseph • 8 - 9 am • SMS SVdP Room Contemplative Prayer Group • 9:30 –11 am • SJE NPC Linehan 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, following 4 pm Mass • SJE OPC

Sunday, March 19

SJE Prayer Shawl Ministry • 9 am - 12 pm • SJE OPC Room 4 Blood Pressure Clinic, following 11 am Mass • SM Hall African Community General Meeting • 1:30 - 3:30 pm • SJE OPC

THIRD WEEK OF LENT

VACATION BIBLE FUN 2023 July 31-August 4



Registration Opening April 1

Weekend Mass Attendance

Weekend Of March 5/6

	Weekend Ot March 5/ 6			
	St. Mary			
_	4 pm	7 am	11 am	
	138	105	297	
/ _ \	St. Margaret of Scotland			
	4 pm	7:30 am	10 am	
200000	89	63	145	
於公島	St. John the Evangelist			
138	4 pm	9:30 am	6 pm	
W. III M	104	246	119	



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 freolletti@theholyrood.org \mid 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 \mid 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 \mid 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, Part-time 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 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 Paul Brzezenski Celeste Dunn 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

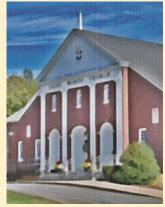
Armand DiLando Ted Powers Paul Therrien Paul Rigazio

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 he Holy

WE ARE NOT GOING TO LIE...

as it is simply un-Christian do so. And this being the season of Lent, where we are called k e improvements in lives and changes to our habits so that we may grow closer



to our Lord, well, need we say more?

So here it is... we have no one to lead us in the decorating ministry at St. Mary. Holy Week is a mere 3 1/2 weeks away, with Easter on it's coat tails, and we don't have a single soul to lead the charge in decorating this space.

St. Mary parishioner, Michelle Lando, has dedicated the past 6 years to this ministry, and as life leads her down new paths, the baton needs to be passed. Fortunately, she has stayed with us over the months of trying to find her replacement, but as of now, we have NO ONE to help us with Holy Week, Easter and seasons beyond! And as Fr. Brian has stated himself... we do NOT want him in charge of decorating.

As we have said with each ask, visual representation of our liturgical seasons is extremely important to the worship experience. And if you don't believe us... wait until it is absent! It WILL BE NOTICED.

Again, no super-special, high-level skill set is required; just a love of Church and beauty and the ability to organize. 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.

Can you help? If so, please contact Christine at (978) 254-4408.

St. John the Evangelist Parish St. Vincent de Paul Society

Annual Report to Parish October 1, 2021 - September 30, 2022

Donations & Contributions	
Mailed Donations/Online/Poor Box Collections	\$13,616
Fundraising Food Drive - January & April	\$200
Reimbursements from SVdP District Office	\$3,536
Other- Misc. Receipts (inc. Our Lady Star of the Sea almsgiving)	\$8,605
Total income	\$25,957

Disbursements			
Housing or Rental Assistance	\$7,801		
Heat Assistance	\$1,710		
Utility (non-heat) Assistance	\$5,488		
Food Assistance	\$13,690		
Holiday Gift Cards, Home Repairs, Donation to St. John Camps	\$2,741		
Misc Annual Dues, Postage, Bank Fees	\$310		
Other (wire transfer of Lenten alms to Our Lady Star of the Sea)	\$7,369		
Total disbursements	\$39,109		

Thanks to the generous financial donations, as well as items for our food pantry, the SVdP Society was able to serve those in need in many ways. We had a total of 39 requests for assistance and helped 279 people with rent, heat, utility, and food assistance. Our food pantry located in the church hall supplied families with food and paper goods along with Market Basket food vouchers. Despite disbursements exceeding income, ongoing contributions and reserves from the prior year allow us to continue helping individuals and families this year. We appreciate the wonderful support from our parishioners! God bless you all!

As a reminder on how to donate...

The SVdP Poor Boxes for cash or check donations can be found inside the church at both the side and front entrances. If you choose to write a personal check, please make it payable to St. John the Evangelist, noting SVdP in the memo line. If you prefer, you can mail your check to St. John the Evangelist St. Vincent de Paul, 115 Middlesex Street, North Chelmsford, MA, 01863.

Donations can also be made electronically using Online Giving found at https://theholyrood.org/on-line-giving

-Frank Peabody, President

Lood Collaborative community

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



The Knights of Columbus, Bishop Ruocco Council is sponsoring a \$1000 Scholarship to be awarded to a high-school, graduating senior from The Holy Rood Collaborative that will be attending an accredited school or

institution of higher education (2 or 4-year college or trade school) in the fall of 2023.

The application and directives can be found online at www.knights9275.com. Click on COUNCIL SCHOLARSHIP in the left-hand sidebar, and the document will be saved to your computer.

To be considered for this scholarship, your application package must be received by the council by April 30, 2023.

The St. Margaret St. Vincent de Paul Society is now accepting applications for grammar and high school scholarships for the upcoming 2023/24 school year.



Students must live within St. Margaret Parish or their family must be registered members of St. Margaret. Additionally, they must currently attend a Catholic grammar or high school.

The deadline to apply is March 31st. Please call (978) 459-0175 for more information.

Fr. Brian presents...



Monday Evenings • March 13, 20, 27
St. Mary Church at 7 pm • IN-PERSON OR LIVEVIEW

Each week, Fr. Brian will lead us through the passion narrative in one of the gospels. These presentations will help us to understand how the particular theology of each gospel writer teaches us something different about Jesus' death and resurrection.



As I have stated throughout the past many months, the reality of the priest shortage makes it necessary for us to prepare for the future. We are at the point where all of us must recognize that the diminishing number of priests will have a direct impact on our ability to maintain our current sacramental structure, particularly where the Mass schedule is concerned.

Although it remains that there are no thoughts regarding an immediate change to the Mass schedule, we believe that by continuing this conversation we will further strengthen our position in order to make the best decisions regarding the needs of our three communities.

We would like to continue this conversation by getting further input from you in the form of a second survey. As in the last survey, we ask that as you answer the questions, you consider not only your own personal needs, but the needs of our community. It is only in this was that we can best serve everyone.

I am grateful for your time and effort in responding to this survey. It is important that we hear from everyone, as all input received will assist us in responding to the needs of our communities.

The DEADLINE to submit this survey is Sunday, March 19. Again, we appreciate your participation.

In Christ,

Fr Bac

As of the writing of this, we have received just under 500 surveys—a great response—but we would LOVE to hear from more of you. If you have NOT yet responded, please do so!

For those who <u>have computer access</u>, the survey can be found at www.theholyrood.org/mass-time-survey. This is the most efficient way to complete this survey.

For those who **do NOT have computer access**, you will find hard-copies of the survey at the entrances of all our churches. Once completed, please place it in an envelope marked "SURVEY—ATTN CHRISTINE TRZNADEL" and place in the weekly offertory basket, any of our secure drop boxes or drop off to the parish offices. Additionally, you can mail it to the parish offices; again, please note ATTN: SURVEY/CHRISTINE TRZNADEL.



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



CATHOLIC APPEAL PLEDGE WEEKEND Faith and action

Supporting the Catholic Appeal is the most effective way to carry out the work of the Church, both within and beyond our parish boundaries. To learn more about this year's appeal, visit https://bostoncatholicappeal.org/ then please prayerfully consider making a gift by mailing back your pleage card or making an online gift at https://bostoncatholicappeal.org/ways-to-give/. Your gift will help put faith into action in countless and far-reaching ways. Thank you.

ST. MARY WEEKLY OFFERTORY	Weekend of March 4/5	Fiscal Year-To-Date March 5	Fiscal YTD Average/Week
Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses	\$15,000	\$525,000	\$15,000
Actual Received	\$16,803	\$494,885	\$14,140
Shortfall/ Overage	\$1,803	-\$30,115	-\$860
ST. JOHN WEEKLY OFFERTORY	Weekend of March 4/5	Fiscal Year-To-Date March 5	Fiscal YTD Average/Week
Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses	\$10,300	\$360,500	\$10,300
Actual Received	\$10,676	\$313,612	\$8,960
Shortfall/ Overage	\$376	\$46,888	\$1,340
ST. MARGARET WEEKLY OFFERTORY	Weekend of March 4/5	Fiscal Year-To-Date March 5	Fiscal YTD Average/Week
Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses	\$4,800	\$168,000	\$4,800
Actual Received	\$5,351	\$153,299	\$4,380
Shortfall/ Overage	\$551	-\$14,701	-\$420

SECOND COLLECTIONS	St. Mary	St. John	St. Margaret
Church Around the World: February 26	\$2,450	\$2,031	\$1,741



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 MARCH 6			
	Goal	Raised	%age of Goal
St. Mary	\$100,000	\$73,040	73.04%
St. John	\$70,000	\$52,286	74.69%
St. Margaret	\$65,000	\$58 , 577	90.12%



Jim Effner presents... Importance of Whole Life as Part of a Retirement Plan

> April 26 at 7:30 pm EST RSVP RQUIRED... https://tinyurl.com/KofCEffnerApril26

When registering for this event, please enter 'Council 9275' so that our council will receive credit for your attendance. Thank you!

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.



REMINDER OF NEW PROCEDURE

If you are someone who is receive Holy Communion via the Communion

line, this is a reminder that you are no longer 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 more easily get to you.



answer: a pouch potato







As we stated last week, our catechumens are now known as 'the Elect,' as they participated in the Rite of Election at the Cathedral on February 26.

As also stated, the Elect will participate in the 3 scrutinies. The scrutinies are:

"rites for self-searching and repentance, which are meant to uncover, then heal all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of the elect; to bring out, then strengthen all that is upright, strong and good. The scrutinies are celebrated in order to deliver the elect from the power of sin and Satan, to protect them against temptation, and to give them strength in Christ, who is the way, the truth and the life. These rites, therefore, should complete the conversion of the elect and deepen their resolve to hold fast to Christ and to carry out their decision to love God above all."

The first of these 3 scrutinies will be celebrated THIS Saturday, March 11 at the St. Margaret 4 pm Mass. The remaining 2 will be celebrated as follows:



- March 18 at St. Marv
- March 25 at St. John

Again, please keep the Elect—Blitz, Grayson, Mary Jane and Treasure—as well as Laurie, who is preparing to come into full communion with the Catholic Church through the Sacrament Confirmation—in your prayers as they prepare to be welcomed fully into the Church at Easter.

NOTE ABOUT THE EASTER VIGIL:

We are extremely grateful to announce that we will be welcoming these 5 individuals into full communion with the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil. As a result of this joyous occasion, the vigil will last approximately $3\frac{1}{2}$ —4 hours. We hope you can join us, but understand if you cannot.





St. John

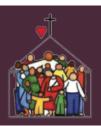
- 2nd Tuesday following 9'am Mass
- 4th Sunday following 9:30 am Mass

St. Margaret

- 3rd Friday following 8 am Mass
- 4th Sunday following 10 am Mass

St. Mary

• 3rd Sunday following 11 am Mass beginning March 19



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

MARCH CLASS SCHEDULE

GRADES 3 - 6 SUNDAY, MARCH 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 and parents will remain in the hall to learn about The Kingdom (Samuel and Kings).

CONFIRMATION II

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 19 Challenges in Prayer

CONFIRMATION I

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 12 "Why be Catholic?"

MARCH FAITH IN ACTION



Challenge of the Month

Did you know? There is not a single quote from St. Joseph in the Bible, meaning that St. Joseph is the most important character in the Bible who never says ANYTHING! St. Joseph was a man of action, who did what he had to do for his family, without complaint. This month, do something a family member asks of you, without complaining about it.

Heavenly Hall of Fame: St. Joseph

St. Joseph was the husband of Mary, the mother of Jesus and the foster father of Jesus. He worked as a carpenter. He was a "righteous man," meaning he obeyed God's law. St. Joseph is the patron saint of the Universal Church, families, fathers, expectant mothers, travelers, immigrants, house sellers and buyers, craftsmen, engineers, and workers. He LISTENED to God speaking to him. St. Joseph can help us, through his prayers, to also learn to listen to God in prayer and be obedient to God's directions in our lives.

Bible Story The Prodigal Son: A Father's Love Luke 15: 11-32

An INCREDIBLE story that tells us of the love that our heavenly father has for us!

DEEP DIVE CALENDAR

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

Soup & Stations - Fridays of Lent beginning at 6 pm

> St. Margaret • March 17 St. John • March 24 St. Mary • March 31

Lenten Blues at St. Mary Tuesday, March 14 • 7 pm

Teaching Mass at St. Margaret Sunday, March 19 • 1–2:30 pm

Scripture, Song & Prayer Thursday, March 23 • 7 pm • St. John

Spring Training w/Blessing of the Athletes Saturday, March 25 • 5-7 pm St. John

RSVP at http://bit.ly/3xEkIMe

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

2023 CATHOLIC HEART WORK CAMP

IULY 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



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.

Since the passing of Sandy Donovan—a devout Catholic, dedicated parishioner of St. Mary,



and founder of the Chelmsford Food Pantry—in 2019, Linda and Bob LaPorte have stepped up to carry on her selfless work and powerful ministry. Two and a half years later, they are needing to retire and are hoping to find replacements with the time, energy, and more importantly, the passion to continue Sandy's legacy. If interested, please contact them at (978) 833-0097.

Why a Prayer Shawl?



Prayer Shawls are a tangible sign of God's love and the prayers of a community. They are the result of the love and prayer put forth by a dedicated group of women. As they knit and crochet these colorful shawls, they pray

that the needs of the recipient be met by our Almighty Father in heaven, who knows ALL things! Below are a few details about our prayer shawls:

- the general size 20" by 50"
- a medal and/or cross is added to finished shawl
- shawls are blessed by clergy before given to recipients
- there is no charge for a prayer shawl

If you would like to receive a prayer shawl, or you would like to gift someone with one, please visit our website to make your request...

https://theholyrood.org/request-a-prayer-shawl

Yarn Donations Gratefully Accepted

We are always in need of yarn to keep up with the demand of shawl requests. Any and all donations of yarn will be used, whether newly purchased or found in the back of a closet while spring cleaning... no yarn donations EVER go to waste!

If you prefer to support this ministry via gift cards so that we can purchase yarn, we suggest the following retailers:

- Aunt Margaret's Gift Shop
- Michaels
- Joann Fabrics

Lastly, if easier for you, you can make an online donation to our ministry via both St. Mary and St. John online giving links found at https://theholyrood.org/on-line-giving

From the drop-down menu, please choose 'Prayer Shawl Ministry.'



One of the great mythical writers in American history was Horatio Alger. He wrote about stories the American Dream. His position was that a person with enough determination has the

ability to rise above any situation or circumstance to achieve their goals—whatever they may be. The person simply needs to put in the work and effort to make his or her dreams come true, and the only thing preventing them from success is the person. His writings were immensely popular and had a huge impact on the American psyche and how Americans came to view what was possible. The idea of the person being self-made, working hard, and 'pulling oneself up by one's bootstraps' is at the heart of how Americans have come to view themselves and how our society should work. People should not need any help moving forward in their lives if they simply have the right motivation.

From a Christian perspective, especially a Catholic one, this is a bunch of hooey. The idea of the rugged individual overcoming all odds, based on their own abilities, leads to one of the biggest issues we have in society today: the autonomous individual. This idea has morphed into the person self-determining who they are, and the idea that personal freedom means no one has the right to tell them that what they believe is right or wrong because truth is subjective.

One of the true antidotes for this kind of thinking is almsgiving. Almsgiving helps us to look at the world and our place in it very differently. To truly understand Christian almsgiving we have to begin at the beginning. What is the beginning? It is acknowledging that God is the source of all that we have. As Christians we need to understand that all good things, from their very inception, come from God. And God endows them with a meaning, an end, and an order. And, as Christians, we have a responsibility to use that which God has given us as God intends. When God chooses to create a human being, He endows that person with their own unique gifts, talents, and abilities, to greater serve the Kingdom of God.

It is imperative then that each person recognizes that the good they perceive in their life does not originate from them. Rather, it is through using the gifts that God has given them that they can accomplish whatever they do in life. We cannot accomplish anything that has meaning or value to it apart from the grace of God. We cannot earn, merit,

or deserve the good that we receive in our lives: it is always a free gift from God. Furthermore, God gives us the good that He does *not* simply for our own good, but to enable us to be his instruments in furthering his plans for the world. The goods that we have been gifted by God are intended to be used to help in his work of salvation.

Almsgiving is one of the gifts of Lent that help us remember this. As one of the great Saints, John Chrysostom, said, "Not to share our own wealth with the poor is stealing from the poor and depriving them of their means of life; we do not possess our own wealth, but theirs." Almsgiving forces us to reflect on where our goods come from. When we choose to give to a charity, we have to confront the truth that we are not giving to them from our *own* treasure but from what God has chosen to share with us from *his* treasure. The good that we do in almsgiving is really about recognizing that we are nothing more in this situation than instruments of the Lord.

Christian life is ultimately nothing more than cooperating with the Lord. Almsgiving, therefore, reminds us of this fundamental Christian truth. Our lives are wholly dependent upon cooperating with God's grace. But, so often we fall into the trap of thinking that we have accomplished so many things on our own. So often we buy into the myth of Horatio Alger that we could be self-made. When we start thinking along these lines, we stop acting from a Christian perspective: we may be performing acts of charity but it becomes about what we are doing as opposed to how God is using us.

Almsgiving, then, is an essential act in the season of Lent that helps us regain a proper perspective of how we are called to truly live out a Christian life. It is not simply about charity for charity's sake. Rather, as we act in a charitable way, we begin to understand our relationship with God and our dependence upon Him. We are *not* self-made and we never can be.

May we use this Lent to reorder our relationship with God by using the generous gifts He has given us in a way that furthers his Kingdom on earth.

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.

The Bac

From our Asst Director of Faith Formation Courtney Callanan

One year, at my family's annual white elephant, among the gifts up for "stealing" was a <u>23andMe</u> test. Towards the end of the white elephant, someone remarked with surprise that the genetic test hadn't been stolen at all. My cousin, Neil, replied, "What is it going to tell us? That we're Irish and we don't like hugs?" Everyone laughed at this because it is true; thanks to some amateur genealogists in the family, we can trace our roots back decently far. Neil, in fact, is just the most recent in a long line of Corneliuses.

With St. Patrick's Day coming on Friday, I naturally have been thinking about my Irish heritage which has given me curly hair, skin that cannot be in the sun for more than 3 minutes, a stubborn streak and, most importantly, my faith. There are obviously many, *many* reasons why I am Catholic, but certainly one of them is because my parents are Catholic. They told me about Christ and the Church. They, in turn, were told by their parents, who were told by their parents, and so on and so on all the way back to the Isle of Éire.

At some point in this history, you come to a point where it is not parents passing on the faith to their children, but a friend passing it on to a friend, a neighbor to a neighbor, perhaps even a stranger to a stranger. This friend/neighbor/stranger heard about the Lord from another friend/neighbor/stranger, who had heard the Gospel from a friend/neighbor/stranger, who had heard it from a friend/neighbor/stranger who had heard it from St. Patrick himself. Thus, the former slave-turned-Bishop became the spiritual (many greats) great-grandfather of millions.

As neat as it is to think about my spiritual ancestry—as it were—stretching back to St. Patrick himself, I am far more concerned about my spiritual lineage in the other direction. Will I, like my spiritual forefather, someday have millions of spiritual descendants. I certainly hope so. Of course, it is not simply a matter of hoping. I need to share my faith with friends, neighbors, strangers, and with whatever children the Lord chooses to entrust to me. I will be the first to admit that there are ways (a myriad of them) that I could do better in this, but it is a responsibility I take seriously.

What about you? To whom can you trace your spiritual lineage? How about in the other, far-more -important direction? Who will be able to thank you (at least in part) for their gift of Faith? How are you sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ now so that generations from now a million more souls might be saved?

From our Permanent Deacon Deacon Frank Perez de Alderete

I've got an idea for a new game show. The contestants are each given a toolbox with a specific collection of tools and they have to figure out what job they need to accomplish. There are lots of jobs on the list, but the challenge for them is to figure out which job is 'their' job based only on the tools in the box. All the contestants have the same basic tools, but each player also has a unique assortment of other tools. The problem is that there are no instructions on what the tools are for, or how to use them effectively. I'd call the show "Discerning our Mission."

If you were a contestant, how would you go about figuring out which job was the one you're meant to do? You'd probably start by looking at the tools everyone has been given. You have a desire to draw close and stay close to God, to worship God, to accept direction from God, and to direct your actions toward God. We have the ability to discern truth, and so we know right from wrong and have the strength to pursue right. But, to do this we need help, and our help is in the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit: Piety, Fear of the Lord, Counsel, Knowledge, Understanding, Wisdom, and Fortitude. St. Thomas Aquinas describes these as "instincts" and "dispositions." These gifts are important because they guide us in our daily lives, and help us to understand what our other tools are and just how to use them. These gifts are meant for us to keep and use.

In addition to these seven Gifts, we are given *charisms* from the Holy Spirit. This is a tricky word because it means "gifts" as well and they are, in fact, gifts but they are more finely tuned to each one of us. Unlike the seven Gifts of the Spirit, these gifts are meant to be given away or, more practically, to be put to use for others. "As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace." (1 Peter 4:10) Our specific toolbox contains charisms for us personally, which we are to use to build the Kingdom of God on earth (CCC 951). So, what are these charisms and how do we know which ones are in our toolbox? And how do we *use* these gifts?

There is no 'definitive' list of the Charisms of the Holy Spirit; rather, they are referred to in Romans, Corinthians, Ephesians, and Peter. Generally, most inventories of charisms list 20-25 gifts. Although some are quite extraordinary, many are quite ordinary, such as Administration, Hospitality, and Teaching. Because these charisms are for the benefit of the Church, our gifts are subject to the discretion of our shepherds who will direct those gifts in the community.

The process of figuring out what charisms we've been given is a journey of discovery and filled with "ah-ha" moments. In the next article, I'll break down the list of charisms and how they're exercised in the community we call the Church.

WORKS OF MERCY RETREAT

On Sunday, February 26th, we held the first of two nights as a call to attention to the Works of Mercy... a most excellent way to celebrate the Lenten discipline of almsgiving. On this particular evening, we gathered for music and prayer, while incorporating the tangible opportunity to LIVE out the Corporal Work of Mercy: Feed the Hungry. Approximately 25 of us gathered and made 100 sandwiches for the Lowell Transitional Living Center, for them to serve to their clients for lunch the following day. When we dropped off the sandwiches on Monday morning, they were extremely grateful for our service to those less fortunate.

We are grateful to those who assisted us in this service, to our Deacons and musicians, who provided powerful witness to the love of our Lord and our neighbors.



















WHY NO FLOWERS DURING LENT?

Lent is a time of penance and introspection. It is based on Jesus' 40 days in the desert overcoming temptation.

Because of this, the Catholic churches reflect this dry period by prohibiting festive decorations and floral decorations in the church.

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 also 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!



SOUP AND STATIONS OF THE CROSS

FRIDAYS OF LENT AT 6 PM

St. Margaret: March 17

Stations at 6 pm followed by soup and fellowship

St. John: March 24

Soup at 6 pm; Stations at 7 pm

St. Mary: March 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

PRAYER, FASTING AND ALMSGIVING THE THREE TENETS OF THE LENTEN SEASON

We've heard over the past few weeks about our sister parish, Our Lady Star of the Sea in Africa, and how we will, as a parish family, support them with our Lenten almsgiving via our Holy Thursday Collection. We have also read about the fasting regulations of the Lenten Season. Last week, we introduced Eucharistic Adoration as a way to implement prayer into our Lenten journey.

We hope you will accept our invitation to enter into a deeper relationship with Jesus in this age-old practice.

> at St. Margaret... Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel Wednesdays • 9 am - 3 pm

at St. Mary Parish Center... Adoration Chapel Thursdays • 12 - 9 pm

at St. John... Old Parish Center Adoration Chapel First Fridays • 3 - 9 pm



So... WHY DO WE ADORE GOD?

The simple and obvious answer... because He is God and we're His creation. It's a unique and basic form of prayer. God doesn't need our adoration. We're the ones who benefit from this prayer form because it sets our relationship with Him in its proper order and, at the same time, deepens the personal relationship we can have with God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

LENTEN CONFESSION SCHEDULE

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

Our regular Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday confession schedule will continue throughout Lent.

FR. BRIAN PRESENTS... THE PASSION NARRATIVES

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

Refer to details on page 5

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

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

Join us afterwards for fellowship. Light refreshments will be served.

TENEBRAE A SERVICE OF SHADOWS

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



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, MAR 11	4:00 pm:	People of the Parish
SUN, MAR 12	9:30 am:	Mary Palmer: 1st Anniversary
	12:00 pm:	Living Intention: Mrs Ngozi Obioha Healing
	6:00 pm:	John Ryan: 4th Anniversary
Mon, Mar 13	9:00 am:	LIVING INTENTION: Robert Wilkinson
Tue, Mar 14	9:00 am:	Mary O'Connor: Memorial
WED, MAR 15	9:00 am:	Charles and Gertrude Cavalier: Memorial
Thu, Mar 16	9:00 am:	LIVING INTENTION: Phillip Perrot
Fri, Mar 17	9:00 am:	Don, Bob and John Burbank: Memorial
SAT, MAR 18	4:00 pm:	Brian J Muscato: Birthday Memorial
Sun, Mar 19	9:30 am:	People of the Parish
	12:00 pm:	Living Intention: Mrs Ngozi Obioha Healing
	6:00 pm:	Patrick John Cannon: 5th Anniversary

St. Margaret of Scotland

SAT, MAR 11	4:00 pm:	Frank LaPan: Memorial
Sun, Mar 12	7:30 am:	For Those who have No One to Pray for Them
	10:00 am:	People of the Parish
Tue, Mar 14	8:00 am:	Magee Murphy: Birthday Memorial
WED, MAR 15	8:00 am:	Louise M Dunn: Memorial
SAT, MAR 18	4:00 pm:	People of the Parish
Sun, Mar 19	7:30 am:	Josef Pokorny: 5th Anniversary
	10:00 am:	Robert Zaim: 8th Anniversary

St. Mary Parish

SAT, MAR II	4:00 pm:	Daniel Daley: 4th Anniversary
Sun, Mar 12	7:00 am:	James F Dolan Sr: Month's Mind
	11:00 am:	People of the Parish
WED, MAR 15	7:00 am:	Albin A and Ruthellen Hastbacka: Memorial
THU, MAR 16	7:00 am:	Fr Arnold Kelley: Memorial
Fri, Mar 17	7:00 am:	Robert Parker: 4th Anniversary
SAT, MAR 18	4:00 pm:	People of the Parish
Sun, Mar 19	7:00 am:	Catherine Frink: Memorial
	11:00 am:	Susan Rose Hammond: 2nd Anniversary

Funerals Recently Celebrated

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

Mary Frances Shipko • Monday, March 6 • St. John Nancy Ann Desmond • Tuesday, March 7 • St. Margaret

For details on all available ways to remember a loved one, visit us at www.theholyrood.org/ remember-a-loved-one

NOTE: Flowers are not permitted to be displayed during Lenten Season

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 Sacred Heart Lamp
In Memory of John B Leonard

St. John Sanctuary Lamp
In Memory John Ryan:
4th Anniversary

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 Patrick Thomas Quinlan

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