



Easter Sunday: The Resurrection of the Lord

April 9, 2023

“Do not be afraid! I know you are seeking Jesus the crucified.
He is not here, for He has been raised, **just as He said!**”

weekly calendar

Monday, April 10

PARISH OFFICES CLOSED TODAY

Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3 pm • SJE Church and LIVEVIEW
 Confession • 4:30 - 5:30 pm • SJE Church
 SM 4 pm Choir Rehearsal • 7 pm • SM Hall
 Rosary • 7 pm • SM Church and LIVEVIEW

Tuesday, April 11

Coffee Group/Blood Pressure Clinic • 9:30 am • SJE Hall
 Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3 pm • SJE Church and LIVEVIEW
 Confession • 4:30 - 5:30 pm • SMS Church
 Bible Study • 7 - 9 pm • SM PC Conf Room 1
 Rosary • 7 pm • SM Church and LIVEVIEW
 SMS Choir Practice • 7 - 8:45 pm • SMS Choir Loft

Wednesday, April 12

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
 God, Pizza and Beer • 7 - 8:30 pm • SJE OPC
 Rosary • 7 pm • SM Church and LIVEVIEW

Thursday, April 13

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
 Hope After Heartbreak • 6:30 - 8 pm • SM PC Room 5
 Rosary • 7 pm • SM Church and LIVEVIEW
 SM 11 am Choir Rehearsal • 7:30 - 8:30 pm • SM Church

Friday, April 14

Knitting and Crocheting • 3 - 5 pm • SM Hall
 Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3 pm • SJE Church and LIVEVIEW
 Trivia Night • 7 - 9 pm • SMS OLL Hall
 Rosary • 7 pm • SM Church and LIVEVIEW

Saturday, April 15

Saturday Men's Group • 7 - 8:45 am • SJE NPC Linehan
 Men of St. Joseph • 8 - 9 am • SMS SVdP Rm
 Contemplative Prayer • 9:30 - 11 am • SJE NPC Linehan
 Confessions • refer to page 3 for times and locations
 St. Mary Bell Choir Rehearsal • 2:30 - 3:30 pm • SM Choir Loft
 Faith and Family Gathering • 5 - 7 pm • SJE Hall

Sunday, April 16

SJE Prayer Shawl Meeting • 9 am - 12 pm • SJE OPC
 Blood Pressure Clinic • 12 - 12:30 pm • SM Hall
 African Community Committee Meeting • 1:30 - 3:30 • SJE OPC

The Parish Offices will be closed on **Monday, April 10th** in honor of Easter Monday, what is also known as "Monday of the Angel" or "Little Easter" in our Catholic Tradition.



When the women arrived at the tomb, they noticed it was empty, but an angel announced His resurrection. In Matthew 28:6, the angel says,

"He is not here; he has risen, just as he said."

The angel then tells the woman to go and tell the others what has happened.

While the angel came over 2,000 years ago, today Christians can be the voice that tells others the good news of Christ's resurrection. Are we willing to share this news? Do we truly believe that this news is not only good, but VERY good?

Lord Jesus,
 May we be open to your grace of Holy Boldness that we may share your good news with all we meet. Amen.

Weekend Mass Attendance

Weekend Of April 1st/2nd

St. Mary		
4 pm	7 am	11 am
241	162	314

St. Margaret of Scotland		
4 pm	7:30 am	10 am
97	72	231

St. John the Evangelist		
4 pm	9:30 am	6 pm
176	267	178



What do rabbits say before they eat?

(answer on page 5)



THE HOLY ROOD

COLLABORATIVE

ST. JOHN
THE EVANGELIST PARISH
115 MIDDLESEX STREET
NORTH CHELMSFORD

ST. MARGARET
OF SCOTLAND PARISH
374 STEVENS STREET
LOWELL

ST. MARY PARISH
25 NORTH ROAD
CHELMSFORD



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 noon

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 - 9 pm • St. Mary Adoration Chapel

First Fridays • 3 - 9 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.

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
frayray@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

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pfiricano@theholyrood.org | ext 220

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hhannaway@theholyrood.org | ext 226

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ekindler@theholyrood.org | ext 216

Lynn Anne LaDuke, FAITH FORMATION COORDINATOR
lynnanne@theholyrood.org | ext 240

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Rae Russo, PART-TIME FUNERAL COORDINATOR
rae@theholyrood.org | (978) 306-5882

Facilities

Dan Heider, FACILITIES MANAGER
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Chris Goglia, FACILITIES SPECIALIST
chris@theholyrood.org | ext 233

Bulletin, Website, Social Media

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

here's what's happening in The Holy



The Clergy and staff of The Holy Rood Collaborative wish our parish families and those they love a blessed Easter Sunday and Easter Season!

May the light of our Resurrected Lord fill you with the true peace and joy that only He can give!

CHEVERUS AWARD



In the bicentennial year of the Archdiocese of Boston (2008), Cardinal Séan O'Malley instituted the Cheverus Award medals. These medals are now conferred upon selected recipients from throughout the Archdiocese annually at the Cathedral.



The oval-shaped, silver medal bears the image of Bishop Jean-Louis Anne Magdelaine Lefebvre de Cheverus. On the reverse side is Bishop Cheverus' coat of arms and episcopal motto "diligamus nos invicem" (let us love one another).

Bishop Cheverus was the founding Bishop of Boston and led the diocese from 1808 until his return to France in 1824. He died in 1836 as the archbishop of Bordeaux.

The medal recipients—who include laypeople, religious and deacons—are chosen for their service to the Church and God's people. Most recipients are nominated by their pastor, forwarded by their area vicar and approved by their regional bishop and Cardinal O'Malley. Some recipients are personally selected by Cardinal O'Malley.

The criteria is that the nominee should be a lay person who has served the parish well over an extended period of time and has done so in a quiet, unassuming and, perhaps, unrecognized fashion.

This year, one parishioner from each of our parish communities was recognized; Ted Powers of St. Mary, Lorraine DeFreitas of St. Margaret and Betty Conlon of St. John. Ted recently received his award at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Boston among other recipients. As both Lorraine and Betty were unable to attend this event, Fr. Brian will present them with this award. **Lorraine will be recognized and presented this award at the St. Margaret 4 pm Mass on Saturday, April 15 while Betty will be recognized and presented this award at the St. John 9:30 am Mass on Sunday, April 23rd.**

Please join us in congratulating Lorraine, Betty and Ted!

In a series of revelations to St. Maria Faustina Kowalska in the 1930s, our Lord called for a special feast day to be celebrated on the Sunday after Easter. Today, we know that feast as Divine Mercy Sunday, named by Pope St. John Paul II at the canonization of St. Faustina on April 30, 2000. The Lord expressed His will with regard to this feast in His very first revelation to St. Faustina.



W DIVINE
Mercy
SUNDAY
Holy Hour

NEXT Sunday April 16
3 pm at St. Margaret

Exposition/Benediction of the Eucharist
Recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy
Praises of Divine Mercy
Blessing with Relic of St. Faustina

ALL FAMILIES ARE INVITED!

FAITH AND FAMILY FUN



SATURDAYS at 5 pm

St. John Parish Hall

For information,
email Marianne.Hudelson@gmail.com

Rood Collaborative community



trivia night
Fellowship, Fun and
Food for the Brain!

RETURNS FRIDAY, APRIL 14

St. Margaret Sacred Heart Hall (lower church)

Doors open at 6:30 pm/ Trivia starts at 7 pm
\$5 per person

The St. Margaret Fellowship Social Hospitality Committee welcomes back new and existing teams after our 3 month winter hiatus. Get your thinking caps back on and join us for our FOURTH TRIVIA NIGHT of the year! If you don't have enough members for a team of 8, show up anyway, and be joined with other smaller teams.



Then be prepared to put your brain to work and recover knowledge that is probably hanging out in there somewhere.

* A reminder of how the evening is structured...

Each of the 8 rounds of 10 questions will be a new topic, allowing everyone the chance to contribute to the team score! Every member of the winning team will be awarded a prize!

Due to limited space, we ask that you email your intention to attend to Lorraine at lorron2@comcast.net. If you have any questions, she can be reached at (978) 937-8657.

IMPORTANT TO NOTE:

Entrance into Trivia Night is through the glass door entrance on the parking lot side of the church. Once the first round concludes, the door is locked for the safety of all. Please be sure to arrive ON TIME, or you risk the possibility of not being able to enter the building.

VACATION BIBLE FUN 2023 July 31–August 4

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!



FUNSTERS:

Calling all children Pre-K (age 4) through those entering Grade 6 for the 2023/24 school to participate in a fun, action-packed adventure to explore Jesus! Register by clicking on the VBF link on the homepage of our website or enter this link into your browser...

<https://theholyrood.org/vbf-funster>

YOUTH:

Looking for dynamic and power-driven youth from grade 6 (entering grade 7 for 2023/24 school year) through age 17 to help our FUNSTERS have the VBF experience of a lifetime! Join the FUN and faith-filled staff of 2023! Register by clicking on the VBF link on the homepage of our website or enter this link into your browser... <https://theholyrood.org/vbf-youth-volunteer>

ADULTS:

You are an essential part of our program. Without YOU, we cannot facilitate this powerful and dynamic experience for our children. Trust us... it's a beautiful and rewarding experience for you as well! Register by clicking on the VBF link on the homepage of our website or enter this link into your browser...

<https://theholyrood.org/vbf-adult-volunteer>

Blood
Pressure
Clinics



Tuesday, April 11 | 9:30 am | St. John Parish Hall
Sunday, April 16 | 12 pm | St. Mary Parish Room



answer: lettuce pray





“COME AND SEE”

A Look at Immigration & Refugee Resettlement
Tuesday, April 25 • 7 pm • St. Mary Parish Hall

Imagine living in a war-ravaged country where the destruction of hospitals, homes, historic landmarks, schools, and once bustling downtown centers is a daily occurrence. Or living in a country ravaged by a natural disaster or political unrest and unable to provide safety and stability for its citizens. You must leave behind the only home you have known to make a better life for you and your family. Currently, 100 million people worldwide have been forcibly displaced from their homelands—the greatest number in recent history.

The Collaborative Social Justice Committee is currently exploring ways our community can support refugees and recent immigrants. We will learn more about immigration and refugee resettlement—what it is like for those displaced people restarting their lives in our communities. Founded in 1918, the IINE is one of the regions oldest and largest non-profits serving new Americans.

If you are interested in simply learning more about these issues, interested in ways to get involved, or interested in opportunities to have a life-changing impact on a refugee family, please join us! Refreshments will be provided.



IMPORTANT ! ANNOUNCEMENT

We all knew this day was coming. We all knew that Fr. Antonio's days here were short. We all knew that his stay here was only temporary. What we didn't know is how attached we would get to him, and how much he would do for us in such a short time.

Below is the official notice from the Archdiocesan Office for Clergy Personnel regarding Fr. Antonio's reassignment:

March 30, 2023

Cardinal Seán has appointed Father Antonio de Souza, FDP, to serve as Parochial Vicar at Sacred Heart Parish, Saint Anthony of Padua Parish, Saint Francis of Assisi Parish as well as Saint Mary Parish in the City of Cambridge. These parishes operate as a collaborative as outlined in Disciples in Mission. The effective date of this action will be Sunday, April 16th, 2023...

...Father de Souza is a priest of the Don Orione Fathers, and a candidate for incardination in the Archdiocese of Boston. May God's blessings be upon him as he concludes his ministry in Chelmsford & Lowell and begins this new assignment.

Join us as we extend our immense gratitude to Fr. Antonio, and our heartfelt prayers for continued blessings as he continues in the path that God leads him to travel!

Fr. Antonio, you will be missed!

God Bless You



No parent should outlive their child, and yet it happens. And the pain that follows that loss, at times it feels insurmountable. It is a cross that weighs so heavy that you may believe you are breaking under its weight. Please know that you are not alone in this walk.

Paula, who has experienced the loss of her adult son, is hoping to journey alongside others who also walk this path. Whether your loss is recent or some time ago, you are reminded... you are not alone. It is in being with others who share this experience where healing can begin to take place. It is here where stories can be shared, tears can be validated and honored, and hope can begin to take root.

This group will meet on the 1st Thursday of the month in the St. Mary Parish Center (Room 5). If you are interested in attending or learning more, Paula can be reached at (978) 427-5834 or at pjdpwalsh@comcast.net.

a note from our **MUSIC MINISTRIES**

- Mike Stack, Director of St. Mary Music Ministry



Since I first joined our Music Ministry, I've occasionally given a talk about my experiences in service. I always start with how I grew up playing jazz trumpet until I was in college when I picked up my roommate's guitar and started a punk band, and that these musical experiences are what prepared me to sing in church.

It always gets a laugh—and it's meant to—but it's also sincere. My own faith journey has led me to see how every experience in my life has led me to where I am; a place where I am able to use my gifts; not for my glory, but for God's!

This is the 'magic' of Music Ministry that I could never find in the secular music experience. When I play music outside of the church, I know I've done a good job when people applaud. But in Music Ministry, it's different; I know we've done a good job when the Holy Spirit works through us and moves the Congregation to sing. I have had many, many special moments as a liturgical musician, but I frequently think back to one Sunday evening Mass at St. Mary's. Our cantor wasn't feeling great and decided not to sing our Meditation, so we went forward with the "Prayer of St. Francis" as an instrumental.

But that's not what happened. The Congregation sang the song TO US!. Years later, just writing about this, I find myself needing to pause and process the emotion of this moment, when I truly believe God reached out through us to inspire you to praise Him.

Everyone who volunteers in the church knows this is the gift of service, and I try to keep it front and center every minute I spend in one of our churches. As Music Director, I get to invite others to experience this gift of service through music and I can promise you that joining Music Ministry will be an amazing and sacred experience. My only regret is that I waited until I was in my 30s to do so myself! Come and talk to any of us in the Ministry. We'd love to have you join us!

And whenever you're in a Congregation and the music helps you connect to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and to God, show us by singing with us. That's how we know we've done a good job.

I would like to offer to all a most Holy and Blessed Easter.

If this is your first time with us, we are blessed by your presence. If you occasionally gather with us, we are filled with joy that you are here again, for each time you gather with us we are made whole. If you are simply searching, we are delighted that you have brought your journey to this moment, and we desire to make this journey with you. We pray that each and every one of you will come each week to join with us in praising the Lord.

May all who have gathered here this day truly know God's mercy, compassion, and love that is the Easter glory!

- Fr. Brian, Pastor

If you haven't been around much lately, we are so grateful you are here today! You are part of the family, and there is something missing when you are not here.

Has it been a long time?

Don't know where, or even how, to start?

No worries...

we'll help you out in any and every way we can.

Wherever you are in your faith journey,
our desire is to welcome you back!

Call us at (978) 256-2374 to introduce yourself, or simply fill out the below form and drop it into the offertory basket, the parish office, or send it back to us in the mail.

If easier, you can complete a contact form at
www.theholyrood.org/welcome-home-contact-form

or... if you want to jump right ahead to registering with us, please visit www.theholyrood.org/parish-registration

**We look forward
to getting reacquainted!**



**I am interested in learning more about
The Holy Rood Collaborative Community!**

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

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.

Due to early submittal to the printer because of the Easter Celebration, the offertory report for the weekend of April 1st/2nd will be reported in next weekend's bulletin (April 15th/16th), while the offertory report for Easter Weekend and the Holy Week special collections will be reported in April 22nd/23rd bulletin.



clergytrust

TODAY'S EASTER SUNDAY COLLECTION

For both our active and senior priests, bringing the presence of Christ to others is a daily calling that extends far beyond the walls of the Church. It impacts the lives of people of all faiths and backgrounds throughout the entire community. There are countless examples of priests in the Archdiocese of Boston working tirelessly and selflessly to make the world a better place for all.

Our priests are so committed to serving others that it can be very easy for them to forget that they must take care of themselves, too. That is why the Clergy Trust is so dedicated to the mission of ensuring our priests receive the care and support they need to stay healthy.

It's simple: healthier priests mean stronger communities. By supporting the Clergy Trust, you are supporting dedicated priests who do so much for us and our communities.

Please give generously using the envelopes that will be provided.

You can also make your gift online at <https://clergytrust.org/ways-to-give/>.

thank you

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 pledge 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.

Faith into Action

CATHOLIC APPEAL AS OF MARCH 28

	Goal	Pledged	%age of Goal
St. Mary	\$66,931	\$37,718	56.35%
St. John	\$44,343	\$35,515	80.09%
St. Margaret	\$29,548	\$17,328	58.64%



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.

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:
collaborativeppe@theholyrood.org

Scott Davidson (SJE) - Chair

Rob Donnelly (SM)	Lorraine Freitas (SMS)
Hilde Gilman (SMS)	Chad Groenwoldt (SMS)
Beth Jacavano (SJE)	Drew Jubinville (SJE)
Cathy Latina (SM)	Lori McDonald (SM)
Ellen St. George (SJE)	Paul Sneeringer (SMS)
Steve McMillan (SM)	

St. John Finance Council

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

Jeff Brown - Chair

John Bagni	Paul Brzezinski
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
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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

BULLETIN SUBMITTALS

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.

****important notice****

FOR CURRENT PGC FACILITATORS AND THOSE
WHO WISH TO BECOME ONE!



If you are a current facilitator of Protecting God's Children workshops, please be advised that **previous versions of PGC can NOT BE used after June 30, 2023.**

This means that **all current PCG Facilitators MUST undergo training** in the newest version, PGC 4.0. Below you will find dates of the **ONLY** remaining training and launch events. NOTE that these sessions are in-person **ONLY**. If you do not attend one of these training sessions, you will no longer be allowed to facilitate.

April 15 | 9 am – 5 pm *

St John the Evangelist | 20 Church Street | Hopkinton,

April 24 & 25 | 6 – 10 pm

RCAB Pastoral Center | 66 Brooks Drive | Braintree

May 6 | 8:30 am – 4 pm *

St Augustine Parish | 43 Essex Street | Andover

May 20 | 9 am – 5 pm *

Holy Family Parish | 601 Tremont St | Duxbury

June 10 | 8:30 am – 4 pm *

St Joseph Parish | 173 Albion Street | Wakefield

June 24 | 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

RCAB Pastoral Center | 66 Brooks Drive | Braintree

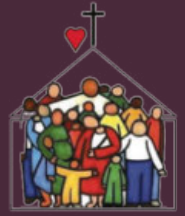
*Mass to follow

HOW DO YOU REGISTER?

- Log into/create your account by visiting <http://www.virtusonline.org/virtus/>
- In the box entitled "Current Training," click the "Register for Training" link.
- Choose the "Protecting God's Children for Facilitators 4.0" training that meets your schedule

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

APRIL CLASS SCHEDULE

GRADES 3 - 6

SUNDAY, APRIL 23

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 to learn about The Bible Today and Why it Still Matters

PARENTS will move into Discipleship Groups for an introduction to the New Testament.

GRADES 7-8

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

SUNDAY, APRIL 30
 Session 8: "The Church"

CONFIRMATION I

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

SUNDAY, APRIL 30
 Chosen Lesson 7
 "Where am I Going?"

CONFIRMATION II

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

SUNDAY, APRIL 23
 Chosen Lessons 20 & 24

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

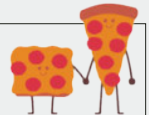
For descriptions, please visit ...

www.theholyrood.org/deep-dives

To complete the reflection sheet, visit...

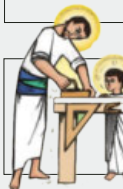
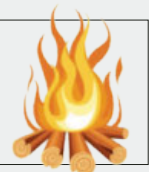
www.theholyrood.org/dd-reflection.

Faith & Family Gathering
 Every Saturday at 5 pm (unless noted)



Divine Mercy Sunday
 Sunday, April 16 • 3 pm • St. Margaret

Faith and Fire Bonfire
 Saturday, April 22 • 5 pm • St. John
 RSVP at <http://bit.ly/3FUqTAo>



St. Joseph Work Fest
 Sunday, April 30 • 12 - 2 pm • St. Mary



One of our parish families will be sponsoring a Ukrainian family who is coming to the United States to escape the ravages of war. We are blessed to have a family among us who is willing to open their hearts and their home to them, as this Ukrainian family is faced with the difficult decision to leave their home and all that they know.

The most urgent need is their travel costs to get to the United States. If each of our Faith Formation families could donate \$5 towards this need, this would cover the majority of this cost, and allow us all to show love and compassion to those who have experienced unimaginable hardship.

This collection will go through the month of April and can be brought to your April Faith Formation Class/Gathering.

We thank you, in advance, for your support!

APRIL FAITH IN ACTION

Grades
3-6

Challenge of the Month

Write a short letter or note to someone you love or care about. Whether you drop it in the mail, hand-deliver or leave it on their pillow, it doesn't matter. Just let them know that you care for them and are thankful to have them in your life.

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

Heavenly Hall of Fame St. Catherine of Sienna

Catherine was born in the late Middle Ages, a time of great change in the world and the Church. The bubonic plague, a deadly and contagious disease, spread across Europe and killed one third of the population. When she was very young, Catherine began to find quiet places where she could pray and talk to God. Catherine wrote letters to all kinds of people, from the poorest in the land to the richest. It was considered a miracle that Catherine was able to write well because she never attended school. Catherine encouraged people to live in peace. She wrote that no matter where people lived or who they were, they should realize that all their talents and everything they have is from God. She is the patron saint of nurses and many other causes. She was declared a doctor of the Church by Pope Paul VI in 1970.

Devotion of the Month

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.
And kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.
And you will renew the face of the earth.

Lord, by the light of the Holy Spirit
you have taught the hearts of your faithful.
In the same Spirit help us to relish what is right
and always rejoice in your consolation.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Bible Story

The Story of Pentecost [Acts 2]

The day the Church was born- the birthday of the Church! Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to equip each believer, to work and spread his message of love, mercy, and peace.

The Dove is the
traditional symbol
of the Holy Spirit



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

Congratulations

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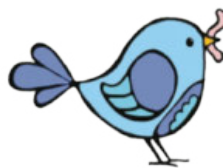
of the over 65 families who
registered on Palm Sunday,
their name was drawn as the
winner of the Adult Easter Basket!



2023/24 FAITH FORMATION REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

REGISTER TODAY!

- Visit our website at...
www.theholyrood.org/faith-formation-registration
- Click on the parish at which you wish to register
- Look for the ConnectNow/My Own Church (MOC) icon and follow the directions for your MOC status



The Early Bird Gets the Worm!

Register by May 7 and be entered to win
\$125 to be used towards your family's
registration fees! There will be one
winner from each parish.

Early Registration Fees end May 31.
Effective June 1, fees will increase by \$50.

QUESTIONS?

For St. John & St. Margaret contact...

Lynn Anne LaDuke at lynnanne@theholyrood.org

For St. Mary, contact...

Elaine Kindler at ekindler@theholyrood.org



The heart of Christian discipleship is found in answering this one question: what does it mean for us to live a life of love? The whole meaning of Easter and how we live out Easter each day is discovered in this question.

There are many misunderstandings about what true love is. For some it is simply letting people 'be who they are.' Acceptance of the person and leaving them as they are is *not* true love—it is laziness. Yes, we need to meet and accept people where they are, but true love challenges people to become the person God created them to be rather than who they want to be. Others will look to their feelings and believe that love is discovered in 'how I feel' but feelings without action is *not* love: love is only discovered in and through our actions.

The cross of Christ is the ultimate expression of true love, for true love is not possible without sacrifice. If we are not ready to sacrifice ourselves: to die to our own self-interests, to die to our own desires and passions, then we are not ready to truly love. If we are not ready to serve another without counting the cost, without wanting to know the benefit it will bring me, then we are not ready to love. Love can never be found in desiring *even* that the one we love, loves us back. True love is only realized when it is unconditional, unmerited and unwarranted, and seeks only what is good for the other without expecting the other to respond in kind. True love is found when we are ready to offer our very self for the other to live.

When Jesus said yes to the cross, He took it up for us. He accepted it for each and every human being that ever existed or will exist. Jesus laid down his life *not* for his benefit: He did not need the cross—we did. If Christ had not died on the cross, then heaven would have been closed to humanity forever. Christ loved us to his death and in dying showed us that love is more powerful than death, for the cross is what makes possible the resurrection. When we die to ourselves, we realize the transforming power of God's love in the world. When we die to ourselves, we become the instrument that allows God's love to be seen. When we die to ourselves, we come to understand that we *truly* are made in the image and likeness of God. God is love and He has always chosen to love us, even when He knew that we might choose *not* to love Him back.

What we must see is that the cross is the only way to life. Love is *not* an option because our very nature impels us to be like God. If we are to be like God—and God is Love—then we must be love incarnate. When we choose *not* to love unconditionally (the only true

love), we choose *not* to love at all. Once we seek a return on love, what we have is a transaction—not love. Love must be given freely and without expectation of a return. Christ knew people would reject Him and the cross and He died for them anyway. We must do the same. We must recognize that we really have *only* two options: to live in Christ or to live in death. We live in death when we choose *not* to live a life of love—when we choose to live a life that is all about self-esteem and self-actualizing, or self-anything. When our lives become absorbed with our own desires and passions, true love is not possible. And life without love is a living death.

The cross leads us to a life of love. It begins by recognizing our dependence upon God. All that Christ did, He did in response to God's will. He humbled himself and offered his very self, his very life, to the Father. We must unite ourselves with Christ, joining Him in his act of humility. It is in this moment that our lives come to be about God. Then, like Christ, we can empty ourselves of everything that is not about God, and create room for Him to fill us with his grace, mercy, and very presence. Once we become filled with the presence of God, we—like Christ—can give ourselves completely to the Father and say with Christ, "Into your hands I commend my spirit."

As we die to ourselves with Christ, we begin to experience the power of God's transforming love. We are ready to make real sacrifice. The true meaning of the word 'sacrifice' is to make holy, and to make holy means to make God present. We are then ready to rise to new life with Christ, where all of our relationships are grounded in our relationship with God and grow from that relationship.

When we love God first and above all, we can love others as we should. We can then look at people *not* for what they can give us but for what we can give them. We simply choose to love them for themselves with all their imperfections and brokenness, seeking to lead them to Christ to become the person God created them to be. The essence of love, then, is the road of discovering who we are in our relationship with God.

I pray that the joy of Easter will open you to experience the unconditional love that God has for you in Christ, and that you may come to share that love with all you encounter. May you become the presence of God's love that He created you to be. I wish all a God-filled Easter.

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

Please keep me in your prayers.

From our Faith Formation

Program Associate Shaun Bradley

On Good Friday, a mother stood powerless watching as her son died in agony. By her side was her son's best friend, looking on with the same tears in his eyes. At the command of his best friend, this young man took the woman to be his mother, to care for her, to comfort her. At the same time, that mother took the young man to be her new son, so they might care for and comfort one another in the face of this tragedy.

On that same day, two influential and wealthy men would look upon the broken body of a man they believed in and trusted. They did everything they could for his body, taking it down off the cross and laying it in a new tomb. They attempted to treat his body with dignity while they wrestled with their grief and guilt. They knew in their hearts that they believed what this man had taught, yet, they had not publicly shown it. Now, they attempted to give him a proper burial, to make up for their lack of courage.

On Easter morning, a group of women hurried to the tomb as early as they could. These women had been touched and changed by him; they owed everything to this man. And so, they sought to do everything they could to honor him, to repay him for his kindness in some small way. But how could this small act for a dead man repay the infinite kindness he had shown them while living?

The actions of Mary, John, Nicodemus, Joseph of Arimathea, Mary Magdalene and the other women would not be what brought Jesus back. Their actions could not hope to undo the pain and suffering of Good Friday. But their actions were not without purpose or meaning. Jesus needed his mother and his best friend to stay strong until his return, and so he gave them to one another. Jesus needed his body to be cared for: that same body would rise on the third day. The actions of both influential men and everyday women would be vital for his resurrection. In the darkness of the cross, these people did what little they could for their Lord and for one another, and Our Lord infinitely blessed and increased what they did through his resurrection.

Just like the men and women at the foot of the cross, many of us today feel powerless and fearful in the face of the hatred and violence in our world. What are we supposed to do in the face of tragedy after tragedy? Just like those early disciples did, we do what little we can. This is Easter hope; this is the hope our faith gives us. We live in a world not defined by the tragedy of the cross, but by the hope of the resurrection. What little good we do in the face of crisis, Our Lord multiplies abundantly. We have hope in the One who can stop these tragedies and meaningfully respond to them. The message of Easter is to *not* lose heart, to do what is right in the face of unspeakable horrors, and to trust in the One who can turn our sorrows into joy.

"In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

From our Parochial Vicar

Fr. Patrick Alemayo

Easter Reflection - Sing Alleluia to the Lord!

Easter celebrates the resurrection of the Lord. We sing Alleluia to the Lord for he is risen as he said. Now, he reigns as Lord of Mercy. Easter is a season that we celebrate with immeasurable joy and newness of life: God's love for us is manifested through the resurrection of the Lord from the dead. God raised Jesus from the dead and we rejoice because through his resurrection we are saved from sin, death, and the dominion of darkness. As a Nigerian—and this also applies to all Africans—singing is a very wonderful way of expressing joy and worship to God for his goodness and love. **Yes, we sing Alleluia to the Lord because the Lord is risen.** Our faith in the death and resurrection of the Lord is at the center of our Christian faith. This accomplishes his saving mission for us.

In John 20:1-9, we find one of the Easter morning stories that narrates the Easter experience of Mary of Magdala, Peter, and John, the disciple whom Jesus loved. Consider how Mary of Magdala early in the morning went to the tomb and, upon seeing the stone removed, she ran to tell Peter and John, and how they both ran to the tomb to see it empty and so they believed that he had risen from the dead. What a great show of love for Jesus! In Peter's preaching in the household of Cornelius (Acts 10:34a, 37-43), we hear him testify that Jesus is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. Our joy will truly be full when we celebrate Easter, conscious of the meaning of **JOY—J for Jesus, O for Others, and Y for You**. We need to put Jesus first in everything. Then, we need to put others next and ourselves last. In this way, we are able to cultivate the selfless love that Christ showed to us. This does not mean that self-love is bad, but selfishness can constitute an obstacle to our practice of Christian charity.

We celebrate the hope that Christ's vindication brings to us. The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ brings us forgiveness of sins and eternal life. Acts 10:43 says "To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name." As John 3:16 says: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." As Easter people, Christ gives us victory over sin, death and Satan. Through the devil, the deceptive one, sin and death came into the world. Through the death and resurrection of Christ, we who believe in him are set free from the dominion of sin, death, darkness, and the power of the evil one. For these reasons, we join the host of angels and saints in singing Alleluia to the Lord! To the paschal victim, we offer thankful praises for reconciling sinners to the Father. Indeed, Christ our hope and new life is risen!

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

SUN, APR 9	9:30 am:	People of the Parish
	12:00 pm:	People of the Parish
	6:00 pm:	People of the Parish
MON, APR 10	9:00 am:	LIVING INTENTION: Special Intention
TUE, APR 11	9:00 am:	Lucille Fortier: Memorial
WED, APR 12	9:00 am:	LIVING INTENTION: Special Intention
THU, APR 13	9:00 am:	Maureen McCormick: Memorial
FRI, APR 14	9:00 am:	Lorraine Gaudette: Memorial
SAT, APR 15	4:00 pm:	Those Children Receiving First Eucharist Today
SUN, APR 16	9:30 am:	Those Children Receiving First Eucharist Today
	12:00 pm:	Dedication of Roman Odimegwu Nwokeji and Thanksgiving to the Lord
	6:00 pm:	People of the Parish

St. Margaret of Scotland

SUN, APR 9	7:30 am:	People of the Parish
	10:00 am:	People of the Parish
MON, APR 10	8:00 am:	Gil and Gloria Gordon: Memorial
TUE, APR 11	8:00 am:	Nancy Picanso: Memorial
WED, APR 12	8:00 am:	David F Osborn: Birthday Memorial
THUR, APR 13	8:00 pm:	Nancy Picanso: Month's Mind
FRI, APR 14	8:00 pm:	Virginia Gattenby: Memorial
SAT, APR 15	4:00 pm:	Those Children Receiving First Eucharist Today
SUN, APR 16	7:30 am:	People of the Parish
	10:00 am:	Those Children Receiving First Eucharist Today

St. Mary Parish

SAT, APR 8	8:30 pm:	Blitz, Grayson, Mary Jane, Treasure, Laurie and all who are entering into full communion with the Catholic Church this evening
SUN, APR 9	7:00 am:	People of the Parish
	11:00 am:	People of the Parish
MON, APR 10	7:00 am:	Monica F Garrity: 45th Anniversary
TUE, APR 11	7:00 am:	Eliseo Pena: Memorial
WED, APR 12	7:00 am:	All Living Members of the Albiin A Hastbaka Family
THU, APR 13	7:00 am:	Fred, Frances and Janet Taylor: Memorial
FRI, APR 14	7:00 am:	For all those who have no one to pray for them
SAT, APR 15	4:00 pm:	Those Children Receiving First Eucharist Today
SUN, APR 16	7:00 am:	People of the Parish
	11:00 am:	Those Children Receiving First Eucharist Today

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

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

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

St. Margaret Blessed Mother Lamp
In Memory of Kathleen Ann Tighe

St. John Sanctuary Lamp
In Memory John B Snyder

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. Your dedication published in the bulletin.



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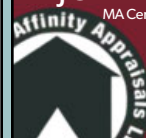
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