



Third Sunday of Easter

April 23, 2023

And it happened that while they were conversing and debating  
Jesus himself drew near and walked with them  
but their eyes were prevented from recognizing Him. - Luke 24: 15-16





# THE HOLY ROOD

## COLLABORATIVE

ST. JOHN	ST. MARGARET	
THE EVANGELIST PARISH	OF SCOTLAND PARISH	ST. MARY PARISH
115 MIDDLESEX STREET	374 STEVENS STREET	25 NORTH ROAD
NORTH CHELMSFORD	LOWELL	CHELMSFORD



### Parish Office Location and Hours



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

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday • 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Wednesday • 9:30 am - 5:00 pm

Friday • 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

### Weekend Mass Schedule

St. John • Saturday, 4 pm/ Sunday, 9:30 am and 6 pm  
• African Liturgy, Sunday, 12 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](mailto:fr.brian@theholyrood.org) | (978) 254-0560

Reverend Fernando Ayala, PAROCHIAL VICAR  
[frfernando@theholyrood.org](mailto:frfernando@theholyrood.org) | (978) 401-9844

Reverend Patrick Alemayo, PAROCHIAL VICAR  
[fr.patrickalemayo@theholyrood.org](mailto:fr.patrickalemayo@theholyrood.org)

Reverend Arnold F. Colletti, SR. PRIEST IN RESIDENCE  
[frcolletti@theholyrood.org](mailto:frcolletti@theholyrood.org) | ext 116

Reverend Raymond Benoit, SR. PRIEST IN RESIDENCE  
[fray@theholyrood.org](mailto:fray@theholyrood.org) | ext 115

Deacon John C. Hunt, Jr., PERMANENT DEACON  
[deaconjohn@theholyrood.org](mailto:deaconjohn@theholyrood.org) | (978) 254-2696

Deacon Frank Perez de Alderete, PERMANENT DEACON  
[deaconfrank@theholyrood.org](mailto:deaconfrank@theholyrood.org) | (978) 633-5408

Deacon Barry V. Lloyd, SR. PERMANENT DEACON  
[deac5@comcast.net](mailto:deac5@comcast.net) | (978) 454-6505

## Outreach & Parish Ministry

Sr. Lori Fleming, SNDdeN, PASTORAL ASSOCIATE  
[srlori@theholyrood.org](mailto:srlori@theholyrood.org) | ext 225

## Business Office

Paul Firicano, COLLABORATIVE BUSINESS MANAGER  
[pfiricano@theholyrood.org](mailto:pfiricano@theholyrood.org) | ext 220

Tina Sousa, FINANCE SUPPORT  
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## Family Faith Formation

Heather Hannaway, MA, DIR OF FAITH FORMATION  
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Courtney Callanan, MA, ASST DIR OF FAITH FORMATION  
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[ekindler@theholyrood.org](mailto:ekindler@theholyrood.org) | ext 216

Lynn Anne LaDuke, FAITH FORMATION COORDINATOR  
[lynnanne@theholyrood.org](mailto:lynnanne@theholyrood.org) | ext 240

## Office Administration

Sue Beechin, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT  
[sue@theholyrood.org](mailto:sue@theholyrood.org) | ext 236

Jamie Brown, PART-TIME SCHEDULING COORDINATOR  
[jbrown@theholyrood.org](mailto:jbrown@theholyrood.org) | ext 239

Donna Gambon, PART-TIME ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT  
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Rae Russo, PART-TIME FUNERAL COORDINATOR  
[rae@theholyrood.org](mailto:rae@theholyrood.org) | (978) 306-5882

## Facilities

Dan Heider, FACILITIES MANAGER  
[dheider@theholyrood.org](mailto:dheider@theholyrood.org) | ext 213

Chris Goglia, FACILITIES SPECIALIST  
[chris@theholyrood.org](mailto:chris@theholyrood.org) | ext 233

## Bulletin, Website, Social Media

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

# weekly calendar

## Monday, April 24

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

## Tuesday, April 25

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  
 Immigration and Resettlement Presentation • 7 - 9 pm • SM Hall  
 Rosary • 7 pm • SM Church and LIVEVIEW  
 SMS Choir Practice • 7 - 8:45 pm • SMS Choir Loft

## Wednesday, April 26

Adoration • 9 am - 3 pm • SMS OLL Chapel  
 Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3 pm • SJE Church and LIVEVIEW  
 Confession • 4:30 - 5:30 pm • SM Church  
 Rosary • 7 pm • SM Church and LIVEVIEW

## Thursday, April 27

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  
 SM 11 am Choir Rehearsal • 7:30 - 8:30 pm • SM Church

## Friday, April 28

Knitting and Crocheting • 3 - 5 pm • SM Hall  
 Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3 pm • SJE Church and LIVEVIEW  
 Rosary • 7 pm • SM Church and LIVEVIEW

## Saturday, April 29

Charismatic Prayer Group • 10 am - 12 pm • SJE OPC  
 Hope and Healing Grief Support • 10:30 am - 12 noon • SJE OPC  
 Confessions • refer to previous page for times and locations  
 St. Mary Bell Choir Rehearsal • 2:30 - 3:30 pm • SM Choir Loft  
 First Holy Communions at St. John and St. Mary 4 pm Masses  
 Faith and Family Gathering • 5 - 7 pm • SJE Hall

## Sunday, April 30

Faith Community Nursing Planning Meeting • 10:30 am • Mariotti  
 First Holy Communion at St. Mary 11 am Mass  
 FF Deep Dive: St Joseph Work Fest • 12 pm • SM Grounds

## hope and healing adult grief support group

When a loved one dies, everything changes in your family, in your life and in your dreams. Know YOU ARE NOT ALONE in our grief and loneliness.



Any grieving adult, who has experienced the death of a loved one is welcome to join us in a safe place to share their story, find comfort,

hope and encouragement, as they continue a new path in life without their deceased loved one(s). Registration is not required.

The Hope and Healing Adult Grief Support Group meets on the last Saturday of each month.

Join us for our next gathering on:

**Saturday, April 29**  
**10:30 am - 12 noon**  
**St. John Old Parish Center**

## Weekend Mass Attendance

Weekend Of April 15/16

St. Mary		
4 pm	7 am	11 am
158	105	245
St. Margaret of Scotland		
4 pm	7:30 am	10 am
84	67	147
St. John the Evangelist		
4 pm	9:30 am	6 pm
117	244	117



**What kind of  
garden does a  
baker have?**

(answer on page 9)

# here's what's happening in The Holy



## "COME AND SEE"

A Look at Immigration  
& Refugee Resettlement

**THIS Tuesday, April 25 • 7 pm**  
St. Mary Parish Hall

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.



## PRESENTS

# HAWAIIAN DELIGHT DINNER



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR...

**Saturday, June 10 • 5:15 pm**  
St. Margaret of Scotland Sacred Heart Hall  
Door Prize and 50/50 Raffle

**TICKETS:** \$10 per person

**MENU:** Baked Sweet Hawaiian Chicken  
Hawaiian Spare Ribs  
Pork Spare Ribs  
Slow Cooker Hawaiian Pulled Pork  
Hawaiian Island Rice  
Plain White Rice  
Roasted Vegetables  
Dessert and Refreshments

Due to space, there are a limited number of tickets available! They will first be available for purchase after all Masses at all churches (except St. John 6 pm) on the weekend of May 6th/7th! After this date, they can be purchased at the Parish Offices, Monday - Thursday, between the hours of 10 am - 4 pm. The last day to purchase tickets is June 2nd... if there's any left!



For more information or if you are interested in preparing one of the entrées, please contact:

Lorraine Freitas at (978) 937-8657  
or [lorron2@comcast.net](mailto:lorron2@comcast.net)

Cathie Denomme at (978) 454-3213  
or [catdon4@gmail.com](mailto:catdon4@gmail.com)

For those who did not have the opportunity to say their good-byes, please find below his forwarding address...

Fr. Antonio de Souza  
St. Anthony of Padua Parish  
400 Cardinal Medeiros Avenue  
Cambridge, MA 02141-1411



complete with Salad, Bread, Dessert and Beverage

**Saturday, April 29 • 5 pm**  
St. Mary Parish Hall

8 years ago, a Pastor we all know and love decided he wanted to give back to his community. He decided to do this in the form of a Pasta Supper, but one in which the sauce was **HOMEMADE...** in HIS home with HIS hands. Thus, the Annual Pastor Pasta Supper was born! Because we lost 2 years due to the pandemic, this will be our 6th 'annual' dinner... and still free!

If you've not been able to attend in past years, please consider making this your first appearance! It is a most wonderful celebration of community!



# Rood Collaborative community

## 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>

## Changes being Made in our... Post-Pandemic world!



With President Biden ending the US National Emergency in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, come changes here in our community:

Beginning NEXT WEEKEND, April 29/30...

- Eucharistic Ministers will no longer be required to wear a mask when distributing Holy Communion.
- Eucharistic Ministers will no longer be required to sanitize their hands following the placement of Holy Communion on a person's tongue.
- The 'Mask-Only/ Social Distancing' areas will remain in all our churches, but in time, the size of these areas may change. For the immediate future, it will remain as is.

**Also effective this same weekend...** We will no longer be reciting the Act of Spiritual Communion as part of the Mass. The prayer can be found on the LIVEVIEW page of our website for those who watch Mass from home.



## REMINDER OF NEW PROCEDURE

If you are someone who is unable to 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.

*a note from*

*a fellow parishioner*

Paul and I would like to apologize to all who attended the Good Friday Service at St. John the Evangelist parish for disrupting the celebration with a medical emergency. Paul and I had fasted from Thursday night through to late Friday afternoon. As Fr. Brian told us, we NEVER should have done that; we are too old (who knew?). We sure know now.

Thank you so very much for all the prayers sent our way that evening and beyond. Everything is fine now, lesson learned.

- Paul and Chicki Rigazio, St. Mary Parishioners

# Our Prayerful Response...

As many of you may know, The Satanic Temple of Salem, MA is hosting their biggest convention yet—SatanCon 2023—at the Boston Marriot Copley Place the weekend of April 28-30. The event is sold out and it is being promoted as "a weekend of blasphemy and remembrance in Boston." It also celebrates The Satanic Temple's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

It is important for the Archdiocese of Boston to have a response as many are disturbed by this; however, our response must be balanced and focused on prayer. The balance is between countering its intended evil effects, and, drawing attention to it and making it more prominent. To that end, we ask you to NOT organize or encourage any of your parishioners to go to the event to protest. It will only fuel the hate of those who support it and feed the media with images.

**Rather than protesting in person,  
we hope to storm the Heavens with prayer!**



If you are/were unable to be with us at any of our Mass celebrations this weekend, we want to share with you the Prayer that was part of a 'pledge to prayer' card that was made available at all Masses. The card asks parishioners to pray a Rosary each day of the three-day convention... Thursday (April 28), Friday (April 29) and Saturday (April 30). We will be praying for the convention participants, hotel workers, and Mayor Wu. Why the mayor? Well, she tried to keep SatanCon from coming

to Boston and now they are dedicating this event to her.

In the meantime, please pray for the intercession of Our Lady and St. Michael.

# ATTENTION Mass GOERS

St. Mary and St. John 4 pm, and St. Mary 11 am Masses **NEXT WEEKEND** will be extended in length as we welcome a group of our children to the Table of the Lord, as they receive our Lord, Jesus Christ in the Eucharist for the VERY FIRST TIME!



## FIRST EUCHARIST

**THIS WEEKEND**, the following children will receive the gift of the Eucharist for their very first time. Please keep them and their families in prayer.

Gianni Christopher Caldwell  
Liam David Chapman  
Nico Marcello Gambale-Mogren  
Chizaram Okonkwo  
Peretz Chukuudubem Okonkwo  
Mark Charles Sides Jr  
Clara Sophia Burns  
Jackson William Dunlay  
Daniel Blake Hathaway  
Jayden Michael McKenna  
John Stephen McLatchy  
Ashlyn Marie O'Donnell  
Lucas Matthew Teixeira  
Bradley David Zugates



The winter did NOT slow brains down as we came together again after a 6 month winter hiatus. As expected, fun was had by all. It's nice to get back out and about with the warmer weather finally at our doorstep!

If you've not yet joined us for a Trivial Night, please consider doing so on Friday, May 12!

**Blue Angels** (yes, you know the name!)

**Winners of the April 14th Trivia Night!**

Sitting (l to r) Liz Kazarian, Carol MacDonald, Kathy Falco  
Standing (l to r) Steve Gregorio, Dan Gregorio, Dave MacDonald,  
Dave Falco





## facilities update

If you come across any issues with any of our facilities, please reach out to Dan Heider, our Facilities Manager at [dheider@theholyrood.org](mailto:dheider@theholyrood.org)

or (978) 256-2374, ext 213. If you choose to email, please write FACILITIES ISSUE in the subject line. Thank you!

Below, please find the monthly update of all our facilities. We will be publishing updates on the fourth Sunday of every month.

**St. Mary** The condition of the church exterior doors seem to worsen with each year that passes. Additionally, the width of the center door opening needs to be increased to make the carrying of caskets into the church easier. We are currently getting quotes from contractors to address the replacement of a total of 10 doors.

Due to the unapologetic effects of winter salting, the aluminum railings at the front entrance have suffered much deterioration. These will be replaced to match the new handicapped railing that were recently installed.

A catch basin, that is beginning to collapse, has formed in the parking lot that is located in between the church and parish center. This repair is in the process of being scheduled, before it becomes a safety issue.

The safety gate that stops traffic from cutting through the parking lot is aged and in need of repair. Stay tuned for a future update on how this will be addressed.

And... the lift project is on its last punch-list item! The phone line is not calling out, so we are reaching out to Verizon to get this solved.

**St. Margaret** Again, the damage from winter salting has struck and has negatively impacted the integrity of the steel of the handicapped ramp. Although there is no immediate danger, we will be getting quotes in the near future to have this fixed.

The terracotta roof tiles that were damaged by the July 2021 lightning strike have been replaced. However, during construction, a section of irrigation line was crushed by the lift. The repair of this line is scheduled for April 25, followed by the turning on of the system for the spring/summer seasons.

**St. John** We are experiencing some issues with the roof of the main church, which will only get worse if not attended to. Quotes are currently being obtained.

Although the light poles in the parking lot are in good condition, the bases need maintenance, which will be addressed soon.

The Parish Center emergency exit staircase is also in need of repairs as the winter salt has taken a toll.

## The Bishop Ruocco Council 9275 Knights of Columbus

proudly present a documentary film

### MOTHER TERESA, NO GREATER LOVE



THERE IS NO  
GREATER LOVE  
THAN THIS: TO  
LAY DOWN ONE'S  
LIFE FOR ONE'S  
FRIENDS.

- JOHN 15:13

Twenty-five years have passed since the death of Mother Teresa of Calcutta, sparking a renewed interest in this spiritual giant of the 20th century. Filmed on 5 continents and featuring unprecedented access to both institutional archives and the apostolates of the Missionaries of Charity, this film reveals not just who Mother Teresa was, but how her singular vision to serve Christ in the poor communities continues to be realized through the Missionaries of Charity today. This is far more than a documentary film. It is at once a soaring tribute to a spiritual icon, a powerful witness of authentic Christian charity, and a guidepost for all who seek hope in our turbulent times.

Please join us for this Mother's Day Tribute to all women who have sacrificed and lived with the unconditional love for the better of those around them.

**WHEN:** Friday May 12<sup>th</sup>

6:45 – 9 pm (movie starts 7 pm)

**WHERE:** St. John the Evangelist Church

**COST:** Just Your Time

Popcorn and refreshments will be  
available at no cost

If you have any questions, please contact  
BRC Faith Director Paul Sidari at  
(978) 729-1677 or [psidari@ymail.com](mailto:psidari@ymail.com)

# the Financial Page

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

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

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

## IMPORTANT DONATION REMINDER

When sending in checks, please make it payable to the specific parish—St. John the Evangelist, St. Margaret of Scotland or St. Mary—to which you are making your donation. As each parish maintains their own financial entity, checks made out to The Holy Rood Collaborative cannot be cashed as The Holy Rood Collaborative is NOT a financial entity.

ST. MARY WEEKLY OFFERTORY	Weekend of April 15/16	Fiscal Year-To-Date April 16	Fiscal YTD Average/Week
Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses	\$15,000	600,000	\$15,000
Actual Received	\$21,518	\$572,089	\$14,302
Shortfall/ Overage	\$6,518	-\$27,911	-\$698

ST. JOHN WEEKLY OFFERTORY	Weekend of April 15/16	Fiscal Year-To-Date April 16	Fiscal YTD Average/Week
Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses	\$10,300	\$412,000	\$10,300
Actual Received	\$17,055	\$367,687	\$9,192
Shortfall/ Overage	\$6,755	-\$44,313	-\$1,108

ST. MARGARET WEEKLY OFFERTORY	Weekend of April 15/16	Fiscal Year-To-Date April 16	Fiscal YTD Average/Week
Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses	\$4,800	\$192,000	\$4,800
Actual Received	\$6,684	\$177,706	\$4,443
Shortfall/ Overage	\$1,884	-\$14,294	-\$357

SECOND COLLECTIONS	St. Mary	St. John	St. Margaret
Holy Thursday: Sierra Leone	\$965	\$1,410	\$1,978
Good Friday: Holy Land Shrines	\$1,920	\$1,838	\$732
Easter Sunday: Clergy Benefit Trust	\$15,782	\$7,594	\$6,363

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 APRIL 11

	Goal	Pledged	%age of Goal
St. Mary	\$66,931	\$54,983	82.15%
St. John	\$44,343	\$45,033	101.56%
St. Margaret	\$29,548	28,486	96.41%



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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:christine@theholyrood.org) or via US Mail to the Parish Offices at 115 Middlesex Street, North Chelmsford, MA, 01863, ATTN Christine. We will do our best to accommodate your request.



## St. Margaret Prayer Shawl Ministry Update

One of our members, Nancy, recently left us to go home to the Lord. Nancy contributed many beautiful shawls and chemo caps to our ministry—her work was always beautiful. We will miss her seemingly boundless energy, wry sense of humor and knowledge about everything going on in our church and the Collaborative. As our Lowell General Hospital contact and delivery person, she received a number of thank you notes directed toward our Prayer Shawl Ministry. It delights me to share the following excerpts with you.

- On behalf of Lowell General Hospital, please accept my sincere appreciation for your ...donation of ...shawls and a hat. We are so fortunate to have the dedicated support of those who live and work around us—people like you who value the services we offer to our cancer patients and their families throughout their journey with cancer...*
- The Prayer Shawl you so lovingly made has brought great comfort to our mother who is a patient... She is wrapped up warm and cozy and is the recipient of your prayers and love. Continue on with your wonderful ministry. Your kindness means a lot to patients and their families.*

We serve an amazing God. I am so grateful for the encouragement that He offers us through these notes.

Do you know someone who needs a Prayer Shawl or a chemo cap? If so contact...

### St. Margaret of Scotland

Call Brenda D'Amour at (978) 453-2723  
or Anna Pratt at (508) 517-7507

### St. John the Evangelist or St. Mary

Visit our website at...

[www.theholyrood.org/request-a-prayer-shawl](http://www.theholyrood.org/request-a-prayer-shawl)

Please pray for those whom we serve and for our service.

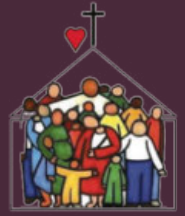


answer: a flour garden



# Family Faith Formation

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



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

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

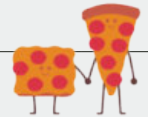
For descriptions, please visit ...

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To complete the reflection sheet, visit...

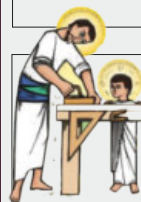
[www.theholyrood.org/dd-reflection](http://www.theholyrood.org/dd-reflection).

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



\*due to school vacation, cancelled April 15 and 22

**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  
RSVP required: see FLOCKNOTE sent on April 5  
Entitled A NEW DEEP DIVE OPPORTUNITY



One of our parish families will be sponsoring a Ukrainian family who is due to arrive in the United States in June 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. **If you DO NOT have a child in our Faith Formation Program and are interested in supporting this cause, please reach out to Marianne at [Marianne.hudelson@gmail.com](mailto:Marianne.hudelson@gmail.com).**

We thank you, in advance, for your generosity and compassion!

# Faith Formation Registration

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[www.holyrood.org/faith-formation-registration](http://www.holyrood.org/faith-formation-registration)

Questions?

For St. John & St. Margaret contact Lynn Anne LaDuke at [lynnanne@theholyrood.org](mailto:lynnanne@theholyrood.org)

For St. Mary, contact Elaine Kindler at [ekindler@theholyrood.org](mailto:ekindler@theholyrood.org)





My two cats, Emerson and Berkley, can be rather funny with each other. One of them will be lying in bed with me and then the other one will come over and start washing him. Clearly the one washing is doing it just to irritate the other one. After a short time, the one getting washed will inevitably start fighting. Then, they'll start wrestling with each other the way cats do when they're not *really* fighting.

The wrestling of my cats reminds me of the story of Jacob. "Jacob was left there alone. Then a man wrestled with him until the break of dawn. When the man saw that he could not prevail over him, he struck Jacob's hip at its socket so that Jacob's socket was dislocated as he wrestled with him. The man then said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go until you bless me." "What is your name?" the man asked. He answered, "Jacob." Then the man said, "You shall no longer be named Jacob, but Israel, because you have contended with divine and human beings and have prevailed." Jacob then asked him, "Please tell me your name." He answered, "Why do you ask for my name?" With that, he blessed him. Jacob named the place Peniel, "because I have seen God face to face," he said, "yet my life has been spared."

Jacob was facing a difficult decision and as part of the transition, he came to wrestle with God. His new name is a sign of this struggle. Israel: the first part of the Hebrew name *Yisrael* is given a popular explanation in the word *saritha*, "you contended;" the second part is the first syllable of *'elohim*, "divine beings." The present incident, with a similar allusion to the name Israel, is referred to in Hos 12:5, where the mysterious wrestler is explicitly called an angel. (explanation taken from footnotes of USCCB)

In our lives we face many difficult moments and at times can feel irritated with God. When that happens, we can almost feel like God is poking us, and poking us until we start to push back. Then, like my cats and Jacob, we get into a wrestling match with God. This is not a bad thing when that happens. When my cats wrestle it is actually a sign of affection. In the story of Jacob there is a clear sense of intimacy in this wrestling. The contention that happens between Jacob and God is *not* a sign of disrespect, but one of trying to establish a deeper relationship.

How often I hear from people about their doubts of faith and how badly they feel about it. My response is almost always the same. Doubt is *not* a lack of faith. It is a faith seeking to understand more deeply. Apathy is a lack of faith: we are unsure and simply walk away. When we struggle with doubt, we are really, in a sense, wrestling with God. It is a sign of hope because we are not giving into the doubt, but are trying to understand whatever it is we are struggling with. We are being

called to delve deeper into our faith. We are called to wrestle with our perceptions of truth, and those presented by the Scriptures and the Church. It is a sign of maturity and a desire to have a more meaningful faith.

Peter, when he denied Jesus, could have followed Judas. Instead, he grieved over his sin and, then, when he heard the good news that Jesus lived, he pursued the truth. He did not hide from what he had done: he faced his sin and brokenness and confronted Jesus with hope and wonder. He failed Jesus in a real way, but his moment of doubt did not determine his relationship with Christ. I have no doubt that he struggled with how Jesus would receive him. He wrestled with how to approach the Lord. But ultimately his faith showed him the hope that initially brought him to Christ.

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." He then said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him a third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was distressed that Jesus had asked him a third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to Him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." [Jesus] said to him, "Feed my sheep. Amen, amen, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to dress yourself and go where you wanted; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." He said this to signify by what kind of death Peter would glorify God. And when He had said this, He said to him, "Follow me."

Peter was dumbfounded by all that Jesus said. Do you love me? Must have been a tough question for him to hear. He had to wrestle with what Christ was calling him to do. Peter would eventually lay down his life for Christ. But that did not just happen in a moment. Rather, it was a journey, and Peter wrestled mightily with who God was calling him to be. But through that struggle he truly became Peter, the rock of faith upon which the Church was built.

May our journey lead us to that struggle. May we be open to wrestling with God, particularly when He annoys us—when our doubts seem to be at their greatest. We are *not* lost. Rather, it is then that God is wrestling with us to help us change our lives.

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

Please keep me in your prayers.

## From our Asst Dir of Faith Formation

Courtney Callanan

Next week we will be celebrating the 4th Sunday of Easter or what is known as Good Shepherd Sunday. The readings, psalms, hymns, and homilies will focus on Jesus in His role as our Good Shepherd. There are many biblical passages touching on the theme of sheep. Perhaps one of the more famous is the sorting of the sheep and the goats in Matthew. I have long struggled with this parable of Jesus'. I think this is a challenging gospel for many people. After all, when it comes to serving "the least of these," who couldn't do better? I certainly could and am uncomfortably reminded of this each and every time I encounter this particular passage.

However, this discomfort is not the main source of struggle for me with this passage. No, in truth I struggle with the sheep=good and goat=bad dichotomy. I have a great love for goats and am not particularly fond of sheep, and am definitely of the opinion that goats are the superior creature. So, I never liked that the goats were sent to damnation. This is obviously a little silly as livestock preferences are hardly the point of the parable. The point is that we are meant to see and serve Christ in others and that sin is both a matter of what we do AND what we do not do. Still, I want the goats to be able to go to Heaven. Knowing this, several years ago a friend sent me an article and accompanying icon of Jesus, the Good Goatherd. The article proposed that while of course we should strive to be sheep, to follow and serve the Good Shepherd, we shouldn't give up all hope for the goats: after all Jesus came to save sinners. Not one of us is perfectly serving the Lord at all times but that does not stop Christ from loving us or seeking us. He, as a different parable tells us, will seek out even a single lost sheep that has wandered away from the fold and carry it home on His shoulders. Presumably He will scoop up any goats wandering in the wilderness as well.

It should be noted that it is in the collecting of these wayward animals that the Lord and an ordinary shepherd part ways. The latter will return a stray to fold, whether it likes it or not, through force if necessary. However, the Lord will never force us into His flock. In order to be saved, we must first submit to the Shepherd; we must do as He asks of us. For a day will come, when whether or not we have chosen to follow Him, that will have eternal consequences. It is this day that is shown in the parable of the sorting of the sheep and the goats; judgment day has arrived and the choice to serve or scorn the Lord cannot be undone. None of us know when this day will come, so we would do well to stay with our Shepherd at all times. For He has vowed to bring us home safely, if we allow Him.

## From our Sr. Priest in Residence

Fr. Arnold Colletti

### Whatever Happened to Joy?

Someone has said that joy means "pleasure, delight, exhilaration of spirit, excitement caused by hope. Rejoice means joy in the highest degree—to be intensely glad. Happiness means fully content—to have extensive pleasure."

How many Christians do you know today who are exhilarated, excited, intensely glad, fully content, experiencing joy in the highest degree? Everywhere there are problems. Health problems, concerns about business, houses, jobs, education, the pandemic, global warming, and all conspiring to rob the people of God of their confidence in the Lord, and their joy and gladness. If you can simply trust God, believing he knows exactly what is happening and that he will bring glory out of it all, then joy returns.

This drying up of joy and gladness in believers is evident everywhere you look today. So many of God's people look sad and defeated, because they have lost the joy of the Lord. Many Christians seem just as lonely, blue and fearful as the unbeliever. It has become a disgraceful testimony to the world, and it is high time every Christian asked himself: Is there enough joy in my soul to overflow in my actions and my conversations, or have I become a murmurer and complainer?

How many times did the scriptures teach us about joy? One third of all the psalms speak of joy. Have we forgotten the promises Christ made to us: "I've come to share my joy?" No matter what happens we are under the protective wings of our God. "Because you have been my help, therefore in the shadow of your wings I will rejoice." (Psalm 63). No wonder Paul could say, "I am exceedingly joyful in all my tribulations" (2 Corinthians 7). How can anyone under God's protective wings allow their joy and gladness to wither? It is an insult to God's faithfulness.

One of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is joy; that is why the Spirit of God is calling us to renew the joy of our salvation.



## Mass Intentions

If you would like to request that a Mass be celebrated for a specific intention or person, please call the parish office. A donation of \$10 per intention is requested when you schedule your intention.

### St. John the Evangelist

<b>SAT, APR 22</b>	4:00 pm:	Those Children Receiving First Eucharist Today
<b>SUN, APR 23</b>	12:00 pm:	Thanking God for Prince Derek Okonkwo Birthday Blessings; Thanking God for Chukwuduben and Chizaram First Holy Communion; Antwi family giving thanks for Vivian Osei's Birthday
	6:00 pm:	People of the Parish
<b>TUE, APR 25</b>	9:00 am:	LIVING INTENTION: Healing for Jane Currier
<b>WED, APR 26</b>	9:00 am:	Alex Coady: 48th Anniversary
<b>THU, APR 27</b>	9:00 am:	Michael Carroll and Thomas Redlinger: Memorial
<b>FRI, APR 28</b>	9:00 am:	For those Whose Funerals were celebrated at St. John this Past Month
<b>SAT, APR 29</b>	4:00 pm:	Those Children Receiving First Eucharist Today
<b>SUN, APR 30</b>	6:00 pm:	People of the Parish

### St. Margaret of Scotland

<b>SAT, APR 22</b>	4:00 pm:	Nancy Picanso: Memorial
<b>SUN, APR 23</b>	7:30 am:	People of the Parish
	10:00 am:	LIVING INTENTION: 70th Wedding Anniversary Catherine and James Fallon .
<b>MON, APR 24</b>	8:00 am:	Virginia Gattenby: Memorial
<b>TUE, APR 25</b>	8:00 am:	Phyllis A Durkin: Birthday Memorial
<b>WED, APR 26</b>	8:00 am:	Francis Franciose: Memorial
<b>THU, APR 27</b>	8:00 am:	Special Intention
<b>FRI, APR 28</b>	8:00 am:	For those Whose Funerals were celebrated at St. Margaret this Past Month
<b>SUN, APR 30</b>	7:30 am:	People of the Parish
	10:00 am:	Elaine Holland: Memorial

### St. Mary Parish

<b>SAT, APR 22</b>	4:00 pm:	Those Children Receiving First Eucharist Today
<b>SUN, APR 23</b>	7:00 am:	People of the Parish
<b>MON, APR 24</b>	7:00 am:	Patricia Ann, Dorothy and Philip C Tulley Sr, Philip C Tulley III: Memorial
<b>TUE, APR 25</b>	7:00 am:	Joseph Kwan-yun Fei: 32nd Anniversary
<b>WED, APR 26</b>	7:00 am:	Albin A and Ruthellen Hastbacka: Memorial
<b>THU, APR 27</b>	7:00 am:	Lea Agostino Dagg: Birthday Memorial
<b>FRI, APR 28</b>	7:00 am:	For those Whose Funerals were celebrated at St. Mary this Past Month
<b>SAT, APR 29</b>	4:00 pm:	Those Children Receiving First Eucharist Today
<b>SUN, APR 30</b>	7:00 am:	People of the Parish
	11:00 am:	Those Children Receiving First Eucharist Today

### 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 Blessed Mother Lamp

**Edward "Bucky" Boehm**  
100th Birthday Remembrance

### 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.



**In Memory of Margaret P Keefe**

### Recent Funerals

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



**Lea Dagg**

Saturday, April 15 • St. Margaret

**Stella Penney**

Friday, April 21 • St. Mary



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