



THE HOLY ROOD COLLABORATIVE

ST. JOHN
THE EVANGELIST PARISH
115 MIDDLESEX STREET
NORTH CHELMSFORD

ST. MARGARET
OF SCOTLAND PARISH
374 STEVENS STREET
LOWELL

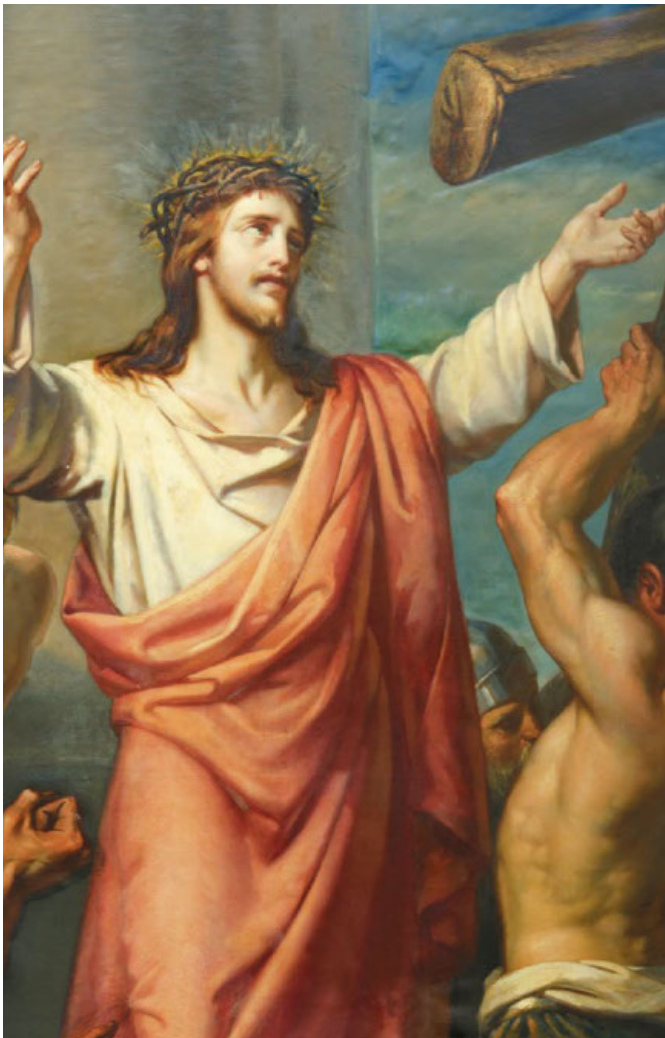
ST. MARY PARISH
25 NORTH ROAD
CHELMSFORD



September 3, 2023 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.”

-Matthew 16:24b-25



Parish Office Location and Hours

115 Middlesex Street • North Chelmsford, 01863
(978) 256-2374 | www.theholyrood.org

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday • 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Wednesday • 9:30 am - 5:00 pm
Friday • 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Weekend Mass Schedule

St. John • Saturday, 4 pm | Sunday, 9:30 am and 6 pm
• African Liturgy, Sunday, 12 pm
St. Margaret • Saturday, 4 pm | Sunday, 7:30 and 10 am
St. Mary • Saturday, 4 pm | Sunday, 7 and 11 am

Daily Mass Schedule

Monday - Friday
7 am at St. Mary • 8 am at St. Margaret • 9 am at St. John

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Monday • 4:30 - 5:30 pm • St. John
Tuesday • 4:30 - 5:30 pm • St. Margaret
Wednesday • 4:30 - 5:30 pm • St. Mary
Saturday • 11 am - 12 noon at St. Mary
• 1 pm - 2 pm at St. Margaret
• 3 pm - 3:45 pm at St. John

Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesdays (Sep-Jun) • 9 am - 3 pm • St. Margaret OLL Chapel
Thursdays • 12:00 - 9:00 pm • St. Mary Adoration Chapel
First Fridays • 3:00 - 9:00 pm • St. John OPC Chapel

LIVEVIEW Devotions

Monday - Friday
3 pm • Chaplet of Divine Mercy at St. John
7 pm • Rosary at St. Mary

Prayer Line

To have prayers said for yourself or a loved one,
call the parish office and ask for ext. 223. After hours,
press 5.

*Please read entire bulletin for potential schedule changes

weekly calendar

Monday, September 4

*** LABOR DAY: PARISH OFFICES CLOSED ***

Confession and LIVEVIEW Devotions are cancelled

Tuesday, September 5

Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3 pm • SJE Church and LIVEVIEW

Confession • 4:30 - 5:30 pm • SMS Church

Rosary • 7 pm • SM Church and LIVEVIEW

Wednesday, September 6

Adoration • 9 am - 3 pm • SMS Our Lady of Lourdes 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

Outdoor Mass Choir Rehearsal • 6:30 - 8 pm • SJE Church

Rosary • 7 pm • SM Church and LIVEVIEW

Troop 77 Scout Meeting • 7 - 8:30 pm • SM Hall

Thursday, September 7

Charismatic Prayer Group • 10 am - 12 pm • 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

Women's ACTS Meeting • 6:45 - 8:45 pm • SJE OPC

Hope after Heartbreak • 6:30 - 8 pm • SM PC Conf Room 1

Rosary • 7 pm • SM Church and LIVEVIEW

Friday, September 8

Knitting and Crocheting • 3 - 5 pm • SM Hall

Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3 pm • SJE Church and LIVEVIEW

Outdoor Mass Youth Choir Rehearsal • 4:30 - 5:30 pm • SJE Church

Trivia Night • 7 - 9 pm • SMS Sacred Heart Hall

Rosary • 7 pm • SM Church and LIVEVIEW

Saturday, September 9

Confessions • refer to cover

St. Mary Men's Group • 7:45 - 8:45 am • SM PC Conf Room 1

SMS Prayer Shawl Ministry • 9:15 am - 12 pm • SMS Rectory



The Parish Offices will be **closed THIS MONDAY, September 4** in Honor of the Labor Day Holiday. Additionally, Confession and LIVEVIEW Devotions are cancelled.

Weekend Mass Attendance

Weekend Of August 19th/20th

St. Mary		
4 pm	7 am	11 am
154	127	217

St. Margaret of Scotland

4 pm	7:30 am	10 am
76	68	145

St. John the Evangelist

4 pm	9:30 am	6 pm
130	202	129

Weekend Of August 26th/27th

St. Mary		
4 pm	7 am	11 am
200	115	190

St. Margaret of Scotland

4 pm	7:30 am	10 am
107	46	165

St. John the Evangelist

4 pm	9:30 am	6 pm
135	265	117



If you would like to submit a notice to be published in the bulletin, please do so no later than 12 noon, **TWO** Fridays prior to the weekend in which you would like it published. Please email your submittals to christine@theholyyood.org or mail: Parish Offices at 115 Middlesex Street, North Chelmsford, MA, 01863, ATTN Christine. We will do our best to accommodate your request.



Why was the teacher wearing sunglasses at school?

(answer on page 4)

Clergy

Reverend Brian E. Mahoney, PASTOR
fr.brian@theholyrood.org | (978) 254-0560

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

Reverend Patrick Alemayo, PAROCHIAL VICAR
fr.patrickalemayo@theholyrood.org | (978) 451-6767

Reverend Arnold F. Colletti, SR. PRIEST IN RESIDENCE
frcolletti@theholyrood.org | ext 116

Reverend Raymond Benoit, SR. PRIEST IN RESIDENCE
fray@theholyrood.org | ext 115

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

Deacon Frank Perez de Alderete, PERMANENT DEACON
deaconfrank@theholyrood.org | 978-254-0638

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

Outreach & Parish Ministry

Sr. Lori Fleming, SNDdeN, PASTORAL ASSOCIATE
srlori@theholyrood.org | ext 225

Business Office

Paul Firicano, COLLABORATIVE BUSINESS MANAGER
pfiricano@theholyrood.org | ext 220

Tina Sousa, FINANCE COORDINATOR
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Family Faith Formation

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Shaun Bradley, FAITH FORMATION ASSOCIATE
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ekindler@theholyrood.org | ext 216

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

Office Administration

Sue Beechin, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
sue@theholyrood.org | ext 236

Jamie Brown, 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

Chris Goglia, DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES
chris@theholyrood.org | (978)341-4203

Dan Heider, FACILITIES PROJECT MANAGER
dheider@theholyrood.org | ext 213

Bulletin, Website, Social Media

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



We still need of a number of helping hands to join the team to carry out this annual event.

Please remember that for events such as this, we rely on volunteers, as there is a LOT to be done. Unfortunately, without assistance from our families, we will need to reconsider the future of this event... and for any of us that have faithfully attended over the years, it WILL BE MISSED. Let us prayerfully considering what we can do so that this does not happen!

There are MANY opportunities for which you can volunteer; set up and clean up, running games, serving popcorn and the favorite of all... ice cream!

Sign up for any of these 'jobs' TODAY at
www.theholyrood.org/outdoor-mass-and-bbq

If you don't have access to a computer, contact Sue at the parish offices, Monday - Thursday between the hours of 10am - 3pm.

The St. John 9:30 am, St. Margaret 10 am, St. Mary 11 am, and the St. John 12 noon African Masses are cancelled on this day.

Fr. Brian is looking to have a committee made up of parishioner volunteers head up this event next year and beyond. We are always open to fresh and new ideas!

If interested, please contact Sue in the Parish Offices. Thanks for your prayerful consideration.



Monday, May 1 - Tuesday, October 31, 2023

Report your Hail Mary Counts—weekly or monthly—via email to psidari@ymail.com or call into Christine at (978) 254-4406.

AUGUST 21-27	TOTAL-TO-DATE	%AGE OF GOAL
38,218	707,175	70.72%

here's what's happening in The Holy

The Annual Harvest & Bazaar 2023



Harvest of Divine Visitation

presented by St. John the Evangelist

African Community

Sunday, September 24

St. John the Evangelist Church

Mass at 11 am

followed by food fellowship

Mass Celebrated by Fr. Patrick

St. John African Community
N. Chelmsford



Through Mother Mary
We Succeed

For additional information, feel free to contact...

Dr. Queen Okonkwo, Chairman
Harvest Planning Committee
(469) 267-1455

Dr. Daniel Okyere, President
St. John African Community
(508) 405-6293

All are welcome!



**Bishop Ruocco Council 9275
Knights of Columbus
present...**

**A Night of Prayer and Reflection
Friday, September 15
7 pm at St. Mary Church**

In honor of...

Our Lady of Sorrows



Please come and share your faith with others as we meditate upon the Seven Sorrows of Our Blessed Mother. If you have never prayed the Seven Sorrows, handouts will be made available.

NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

for Those Precious Lives Lost through Abortion

On the National Day of Remembrance, it is suggested that we visit the burial places of the unborn victims of abortion and other memorial sites dedicated to them.

Our Knights of Columbus will be holding a prayer service—led by Fr. Fernando—at St. Joseph Cemetery at 96 Riverneck Road in Chelmsford.

DATE CORRECTION

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 AT 7 PM

Please arrive by 6:30 pm as the gates lock at 7 pm, which does not affect the ability to leave the cemetery, only to enter.



**LIFE
in the
SPIRIT
SEMINAR**

Come and learn how millions of Catholics have experienced new power, excitement, hope, and joy

in their faith through openness to the Holy Spirit. Pope Francis urges all Catholics to know this "Current of Grace."

Join us from 7 - 9 pm on seven consecutive Fridays in St. John Church Hall.

October 6, 13, 20, 27

November 3, 10, 17

The cost is \$20 per person.

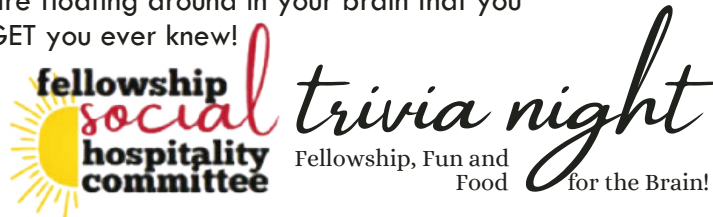
For more information and to register online, visit bit.ly/45QEXVN, click on the QR code, or pick up a registration form at the back of our churches. If you have any questions, feel free to call Catherine Duggan at (860) 481-0959.



answer: she had bright students

Rood Collaborative community

All parishioners of the collaborative are invited to take part in the first Trivia Night of the 2023/24 Season. Form a team of 8, or come by yourself and join up with others! Meet new people, have a few laughs... all while discovering fun facts that are floating around in your brain that you FORGET you ever knew!



THIS FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8th!

St. Margaret Sacred Heart Hall • Trivia begins at 7 pm

Entry into the hall is via the glass door to the chapel. The doors open at 6:30 pm for the arrival of attendees, and will lock at 7 pm for the safety of all. Cost is \$5 per person; snacks and refreshments available.

As space is limited, it is important that you notify Lorraine of your intention to attend. She can be reached at...

lorron2@comcast.net or (978) 937-8657

ESTATE PLANNING PRESENTATION

presented by Attorney Annmarie Roark
Roark & Mansur Law PLLC

Atty. Roark will offer this presentation twice, in order to accommodate various schedules. The topics addressed are as follows:

- ESTATE PLANNING: Why is it important?
- ESTATE PLANNING is no longer only for the wealthy; it is about much more than money.
- Whether you have a modest or large ESTATE, you need a plan; there is a plan for you!

The choice of dates are as follows:

Sunday October 1 • 2 pm at St. Mary Hall
Tuesday, October 3 • 6 pm St. John Hall

Welcome Back 2023

Our Faith Formation Program is in need of the following Supplies for the 2023/24 faith formation year

- WASHABLE Broad-line Markers (packs that include any color of PINK)
- Dry-Erase markers (red, green, purple, black and blue)
- Colored Pencils
- Retractable Pens (blue or black ink)
- Zip-Lock bags (gallon, quart and snack sizes)
- Fragrance-Free Tissues

Collection bins can be found...

- St. John NPC Lobby
- St. Mary Parish Hall
- St. Margaret Church Entrance

MONDAY MORNING Bible STUDY



In *The Holy Spirit in the Bible*, George Smiga unpacks key Scripture passages, exploring the activity of the Spirit at creation, within Israel, in the ministry of Jesus and the early church, and at the end of time. The role of the Holy Spirit in our personal and spiritual lives is also explored.

- Mondays, 10-11:30 am
September 18, 25 | October 2, 16, 23, 30
- St. Mary PC Conference Room 1
- **REGISTER BY THIS Tuesday, Sept 5**
- **Order Course Materials by: Sept 8**

To register and order materials, visit...

www.theholyrood.org/adult-bible-study-current



5th Annual Worcester **Catholic Women's Conference** • Saturday, October 7th • Webster, MA
Visit <https://wcwconference.com/> for ALL the details!

the Financial Page

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

Fiscal Year 2024: July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

To view this and ALL past financial reports, visit
www.theholyrood.org; click on the stewardship tab

SPECIAL COLLECTION TO SUPPORT MAUI: SEPTEMBER 9TH/10TH

Cardinal Seán has asked that
a special collection be taken

in all parishes in the Archdiocese of Boston to support Church relief efforts in the Diocese of Honolulu. Funds raised will support the Hawaii Catholic Community Foundation (HCCF) relief efforts for local community members affected by the Maui wildfires.

Please know that your donations may be mailed in or dropped off at any time between now and that date. If after hours, please make use of our drop boxes, which can be found at each of our churches as well as at the entrance of the Parish Offices. If you will be writing a check, please make it payable to the church in which you are registered, noting "Maui Relief" in the memo line.

Please remember that your generous and consistent giving is needed and greatly appreciated as the offertory is our main source of funds for paying our daily operating expenses. *may change once FY24 budget is finalized.

ST. MARY WEEKLY OFFERTORY	Weekend of August 26th/27th	Fiscal Year-To-Date August 27th	Fiscal YTD Average/Week
Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses	\$15,000*	\$135,000	\$15,000
Actual Received	\$11,105	\$106,512	\$11,835
Shortfall/ Overage	-\$3,895	-\$28,488	-\$3,165

ST. JOHN WEEKLY OFFERTORY	Weekend of August 26th/27th	Fiscal Year-To-Date August 27th	Fiscal YTD Average/Week
Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses	\$10,300*	\$92,700	\$10,300
Actual Received	\$5,633	\$74,157	\$8,240
Shortfall/ Overage	-\$4,667	-\$18,543	-\$2,060

ST. MARGARET WEEKLY OFFERTORY	Weekend of August 26th/27th	Fiscal Year-To-Date August 27th	Fiscal YTD Average/Week
Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses	\$4,800*	\$43,200	\$4,800
Actual Received	\$3,193	\$36,783	\$4,087
Shortfall/ Overage	-\$1,607	-\$6,417	-\$713

SECOND COLLECTION	St. Mary	St. John	St. Margaret
Missionary Cooperative Appeal (August 20th)	\$3,621	\$4,515	\$2,055



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.

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
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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

REGISTER NOW

www.holyrood.org/faith-formation-registration or scan QR code!



needed now!

ACTIVELY SEEKING FAITHFUL VOLUNTEERS

Can you help to fulfill our mission to Share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with those in our community? All you need is approximately 90 minutes one Sunday each month, and a willingness to walk with some of the hundreds of children and parents as they journey toward a deeper relationship with our Lord.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- **Table Facilitator/Catechist:**
Guides students through lessons and activities planned by Faith Formation staff. Needed for Grade 1 and 2 First Communion Prep, Grades 3 – 6, Grades 7 – 8, and Confirmation I and II.
- **Mentor:**
Guides small groups of parents/guardians of Grade 3 – 6 students, following discussion guidelines prepared by Faith Formation staff. All you need is a willingness to listen and share your faith.
- **Safety Monitor:**
Monitors the hall during class time. Needed for all grades.
- **Office Help:**
Assists with material preparation and basic administrative duties. Projects are usually done on weekdays.

If you have children in the program, you can receive a discount off registration fees. Remember, God works with the gifts he gave you. Staff will always be with you for support.

Kindly complete the Intent to Volunteer form by scanning the QR Code!



only 3 weeks away! Pizza Box Pick-Up!

ATTENTION ALL PARISHES!

Everything you need for the beginning of classes will be in your pizza box, ready for pick-up at the parent meetings!

PARENT MEETINGS

Children do not need to attend any of these meetings, but feel free to bring them if you need to. You will be able to pick up your pizza box at this time.

- Parents of Grade 1 Students
Tuesday September 19 • 5 - 6 pm • St. Mary Parish Hall
- Parents of Grade 2 Students
Thursday September 21 • 5 - 6 pm • St. Mary Parish Hall
- Parents of Grade 3 - Grade 6 Students
Tuesday September 19 OR Thursday, September 21
6:30 - 7:30 pm • St. Mary Parish Hall

If you are unable to attend the Parent Meeting, or your children are in Grades 7 through Conf II, you may pick up your Pizza Box on:

- Saturday September 23 • 2 to 4 pm • St. Mary Parish Hall

If you haven't registered, come anyway! We'll have paper forms for you to complete and you'll walk away with a pizza box tailored just for your family.

FACILITATOR AND MENTOR MEETINGS

Please plan to pick-up your pizza box according to the below grade-level meeting schedule on Saturday September 23:

- Grades 1 & 2 • 9 -10 am • St. Mary Parish Hall
- Grades 3- 6 • 10-11 am • St. Mary Parish Hall
- Grades 7 & 8 • 11 am - 12 pm • St. Mary Parish Hall
- Confirmation I & II • 12 -1pm • St. Mary Parish Hall

**Please don't delay in picking up your box...
there's information you need BEFORE the first class!**



During the summer of my freshman year in college, I was staying with my parents who rented a cottage in Dennisport on the Cape. I was looking hard to find a job for the summer and wanted to work as close to 40 hours a week

as possible: I needed to make money to pay for college. It was hard to find work that summer and so, in time, I had to settle for two jobs. The first was working in a donut shop and the other was in a fast-food chicken place. My first day at the donut shop was interesting. When I arrived, the manager simply brought me to the backroom where the donuts and muffins were made, and then told me my job was to clean it and get it ready for the next day. He gave me no instructions on how he wanted it cleaned or how clean it should be.

I looked around the room and couldn't believe the mess—everything had a coating of fat and grease on it! On top of the fat and grease was flour, sugar, jelly, and glazes of all sorts. Then of course, there were the utensils, pans and other pots, and dishes for baking and serving that needed to be cleaned. As I surveyed the room my first thought was: how would mom advise me to tackle this cleaning project? With that in mind, I began by getting all of the pots and pans and such into one corner and then ignoring them—they would be done last. I found the cleaning supplies and then simply sectioned off the room in my mind. I started essentially from the top and cleaned downward finishing with the floor. After that, I washed all pots and pans and such. I then finished with hand-scrubbing the floor. It was dense with dirt and grime. It took me probably a good four hours to complete the job.

The next day when I came back in, the manager told me how impressed he was. They had never seen the kitchen area look that clean before. (But, honestly, it made me glad I did *not* eat the donuts.) The following week I left the donut shop because my other job wanted me to work full-time during the summer.

Thinking about this story helps me realize how important our formative years really are. For most of us, how our parents raised us will remain a big part of how we view and interact with the world. My mom was very big on having a clean house and was very particular about what it meant to clean. As a result of her training, all the maintenance type jobs I have had over the years were somewhat easier to manage. I would just think about how clean my mom would want it and how she would go about tackling it. I also considered that if it was going to be clean enough for my mom, it would be clean enough for anyone.

What is true in the general reality of life is also true in the area of faith. If we look to the early Church, the original disciples sought to live out their lives in accord with both Christ's teachings and the way He lived his life. Christ did not just talk about what they should do, but truly showed them the way: He taught in the most

powerful way possible—by example. It is always easy to talk to talk, but not so easy to walk the walk. Christ did not come to simply tell us what to do, but demonstrated clearly what He intended by living out his teachings.

The disciples, particularly the apostles, would mirror Christ in both teaching and living the life He called them to. And the apostles safeguarded the teachings of Christ to maintain that they would continue without error. The Holy Spirit worked through the early disciples to establish what we now call the New Testament, and helped develop the necessary Church structures to ensure that the work of the Apostles and early disciples would continue throughout the centuries. As Catholics we believe that the Holy Spirit preserves the Church's teachings on faith and morals and guarantees that they will never go into error.

The problem for the Church in this age—and every age—is not a problem with its teachings but, rather, that many of us are not following Jesus as He intended. It is not enough to talk the talk; we must also walk the walk. And we are not always very good at that.

When the Church's teachings and the way we live our lives do not match up, it can almost create a form of the old telephone game. This is the game where a person chooses a particular word or phrase and whispers it to the person next to them. That person then whispers what they think they heard to the next person, and so on, until it reaches the last person. The last person then reveals what they heard, and the first person tells what they said. It is rare when the two match up.

When our lives are not a true reflection of what Christ taught and lived, then we are helping to garble the message. And, at some point, that message can become something that is not even close to the teachings of Christ. We are fortunate that we have the Church, scriptures, the catechism, and the like, to help us retool the message, to know with certainty what it should be. But we certainly make the Holy Spirit's work easier when we seek to match up our lives with what Christ taught and lived.

May we seek to become the model that Christ was for us by truly making the difficult choice of not simply *saying* we are Christians, but demonstrating our faith in the way we live. As St. James teaches us, "Show me your faith without works and I will demonstrate the faith the underlies my work. Faith without works is dead." May we desire to have that lived faith and therefore live life as Christ did.

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 Associate

Shaun Bradley

A trap we often fall into when reading the Bible is assuming that there is only one message, or only one specific way of reading a given passage. Take for example the Parable of the Good Samaritan. For most of us, our mind jumps immediately to thinking the point of the story is that we should live like the Good Samaritan, to show kindness and compassion to all we meet, even strangers. However, there are far more characters in this parable than just the Samaritan, and by looking at these other characters, we can see just how rich and deep this teaching of Our Lord is.

In the early Church, most interpreters of this parable did not see themselves as the Good Samaritan but rather as the man left for dead in need of mercy. They saw Christ as the Good Samaritan who came and generously gave of himself to save us from sin and death. There were also those who likewise viewed Christ as the Good Samaritan, but instead saw themselves as the innkeeper. Christ brought someone wounded and nearly dead to the inn and left him there for the innkeeper to nurse him back to health. In this view, the inn was a representation of the Church, and the innkeeper was not the one showing abundant mercy, but rather the steward doing the will of Christ to care for those wounded souls he had brought to the Church.

However, there are still more characters in the story who we might be able to relate to depending on the circumstances of our lives. On a given day, someone might actually relate to the robbers who beat the man and left him for dead. How often do we reflect on how much we can hurt others, and how our actions might leave someone feeling dead? For me personally though, the two characters who I relate to most often are the priest and the Levite. While many of us have been taught that these two avoid the man for religious or purity reasons, this is not supported in the story. The two men are traveling down from Jerusalem, aka down the mountain, and therefore away from Jerusalem and the Temple. Purity concerns have nothing to do with their decision. Instead, they avoid the man out of fear. They see someone who might be dead on a dangerous road and pass by quickly on the other side to avoid being attacked themselves. They refuse to help the man not out of indignation, but out of fear. How often do we do the same, avoiding doing what is right because we are afraid of the consequences? I know I do, all too often.

This is part of the beauty of the Bible; there is no one-size-fits-all reading for any given passage. For each of us, we must read Scripture with new eyes each time we encounter a particular passage, because there is always something new to discover. Depending on the circumstances of our lives, we may find something new that we never saw before or find something that will only be relevant to us in that one instance. The Bible is not dead but is alive; Scripture is not what God said in the past, but what He is saying to us in the present.

From our Permanent Deacon

Dcn Frank Perez de Alderete

Have you ever looked at the list of things you need to do and just felt like chucking them out the window, and then going to do something else? Hang on to that thought.

I'm finding myself in what I'm calling a "season of setbacks." To be clear, they're not problems; they're just setbacks—bumps in the road of life that annoy and distract. Everyone experiences them. That moment when you set out to do something only to discover that before you can complete that particular task, you need to complete a different task, or two, or three. It's the reason it takes an hour to do a job that should have taken only five minutes. But lately, it feels like pretty much anything I endeavor to do leads to a list of other things I have to focus on first. None of these things are particularly difficult or even especially critical, but they sap my energy and tax my patience.

I'm not complaining, I'm observing. The most important thing I've observed is that when I'm going full-tilt in seventeen different directions, something is going to get missed. This hit home a few weeks ago when I missed an important event because I was distracted by trivial things. There's a difference between declining an event because you're double-booked and missing an event because you forgot that it was today; one makes you mad at your schedule, one makes you mad at yourself.

I realized that the overabundance of tasks had made me subconsciously lump everything into the same category: "Something I Need to Get Done." My day was filled with these. I was in a constant race where the finish line was just another starting line for something else. Even the things I *wanted* to do became checkboxes. Focusing on getting things done so you can move on to the next task is great for work and chores, but not so great for the important things, like prayer, family, and friends. It took missing one of those important things to realize that I needed to adjust my thinking.

I realized that I didn't need to prioritize as much as I needed to *recognize* that not all things are "to-do's." That's how you end up in a race with no finish line. It's about the outcome, not the task. Yes, there is always the challenge of the clock, but focusing on getting things done rather than on *why* you're doing them in the first place doesn't end well. And six months from now I'll forget every task I've accomplished, but I'll certainly remember that one event that I missed.

This shift in focus helped me identify my important outcomes, realizing that allowing time for prayer, family, friends, and community comes first. I'm recommitted to setting them apart from the stream of everyday tasks and know they're not something to be completed, but something to be experienced. The day after my moment of reflection and recalibration, the seemingly endless list of setbacks continued, but I focused on the fact that this was a busy season that will eventually end, and with the right priorities in place, I'll see it through.

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



Mass Intentions

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

St. John the Evangelist

SAT, SEP 2	4:00 pm:	LIVING INTENTION: Lisa Recovery from Surgery Paul T Branon: Memorial
SUN, SEP 3	9:30 am:	Tom Callery: Memorial Mary Jane Dunn: Memorial Mauricio Valencia: Memorial
	6:00 pm:	People of the Parish
MON, SEP 4	9:00 am:	Valerie Ouellette: Memorial
TUE, SEP 5	9:00 am:	LIVING INTENTION: Gaius Monteyero
WED, SEP 6	9:00 am:	Joyce Gardiner: 11th Anniversary
THU, SEP 7	9:00 am:	Kathleen Macdonald: 1st Anniversary
SUN, SEP 10	10:30 am:	People of the Collaborative
	6:00 pm:	Paul McMeniman: Memorial

St. Margaret of Scotland

SAT, SEP 2	4:00 pm:	Daniel M Kent: Memorial Frank LaPan: Memorial Donald F Quinn Sr: Memorial
SUN, SEP 3	7:30 am:	People of the Parish
MON, SEP 4	8:00 am:	Collaborative Members of the Spiritual Society and Sanctuary Fund
TUE, SEP 5	8:00 am:	Jack Bomil: Memorial
THU, SEP 7	8:00 am:	Fr Paul F Manning: Memorial
FRI, SEP 8	8:00 am:	Kara Rogers: 1st Anniversary
SAT, SEP 9	4:00 pm:	Keefe, Hunter and McBride Families: Memorial
SUN, SEP 10	7:30 am:	Vincent Latham: Memorial

St. Mary Parish

SAT, SEP 2	4:00 pm:	Louise LaChance: Memorial Alice Martin: 1st Anniversary Ann Marie Rawnsley: 8th Anniversary
SUN, SEP 3	7:00 am:	People of the Parish
	11:00 am:	Salvatore Santo Russo: Memorial Henry Trueworthy Horne III: Memorial
MON, SEP 4	7:00 am:	Lucia Hang-Yu Pang Fei: 6th Anniversary
TUE, SEP 5	7:00 am:	Suzanne Marie Anderson: Birthday Memorial
WED, SEP 6	7:00 am:	Albin A and Ruthellen Hastbacka: Memorial
SAT, SEP 9	4:00 pm:	John Ferrari: 50th Anniversary

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.

St. Mary Altar Flowers

**In Memory of
Suzanne Marie Anderson
1st Anniversary**



Lamps

At any of our churches, you can request that the sanctuary lamp burn in memory of a loved one. St. Margaret also has two additional lamps—the Blessed Mother Lamp and the Sacred Heart Lamp. The stipend for any of these lamps is \$25, and your dedication will be published in the bulletin.

St. Mary Sanctuary Lamp

**In Honor Of the Solemn Feast of the
Nativity of Our Blessed Mother
(Special Intention)**

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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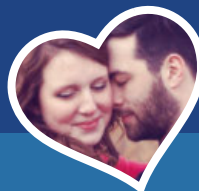


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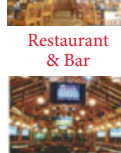
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