



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 10, 2023

### 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have won over your brother."

-Matthew 18:15



### 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 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  
Third Sundays • 3:30 - 4:30 pm • St. Mary Church

### LIVEVIEW Devotions

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

### Prayer Line

(978) 256-2374, ext. 223. After hours, press 5.

\*Please read entire bulletin for potential schedule changes

# weekly calendar

## Monday, September 11

Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3 pm • SJE Church and LIVEVIEW  
 Confession • 4:30 - 5:30 pm • SJE Church  
 SJE SVdP Meeting • 7 - 8:45 pm • SJE OPC  
 Rosary • 7 pm • SM Church and LIVEVIEW

## Tuesday, September 12

Blood Pressure Clinic, following 9 am Mass • SJE Hall  
 Coffee Group, following 9 am Mass • SJE Hall  
 Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3 pm • SJE Church and LIVEVIEW  
 Confession • 4:30 - 5:30 pm • SMS Church  
 Word, Women and Wisdom • 6:30 - 8 pm • SJE NPC Mariotti  
 Rosary • 7 pm • SM Church and LIVEVIEW

## Wednesday, September 13

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  
 SM Youth Choir Rehearsal • 4:45 - 5:15 pm • SM Hall  
 SM SVdP Meeting • 7 - 9 pm • SM PC Conf Room 1  
 Rosary • 7 pm • SM Church and LIVEVIEW  
 Troop 77 Scout Meeting • 7 - 8:30 pm • SM Hall

## Thursday, September 14

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  
 Rosary • 7 pm • SM Church and LIVEVIEW

## Friday, September 15

Health Screening, following 8 am Mass • SMS Sacred Heart Hall  
 Knitting and Crocheting • 3 - 5 pm • SM Hall  
 Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3 pm • SJE Church and LIVEVIEW  
 Seven Sorrows of Mary • 7 pm • SM Church and LIVEVIEW

## Saturday, September 16

Confessions • refer to cover  
 Men of St. Joseph • 7:30 - 9 am • SMS Sacred Heart Hall  
 Contemplative Prayer Group • 9:30 - 11 am • SJ NPC Linehan  
 Hope and Healing Grief Support • 10 am - 12:30 pm • SJE OPC  
 St. Mary Bell Choir • 2:30 - 3:30 pm • SM Choir Loft

## Sunday, September 17

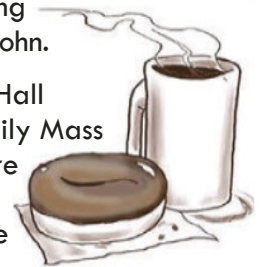
THRC Prayer Shawl Ministry • 9:30 - 11:30 am • SJE OPC  
 Confirmation • 3 pm • SJE Church  
 Eucharistic Holy Hour • 3:30 - 4:30 pm • SM Church



and St. John  
 Tuesday  
 Morning  
 Coffee

are coming together THIS Tuesday,  
 September 12 following  
 the 9 am Mass at St. John.

Join us in the St. John Hall  
 following the 9 am daily Mass  
 to get a blood pressure  
 check, grab a cup of  
 coffee and enjoy some  
 conversation.



There will also  
 be a health care  
 screening THIS Friday,  
 September 15. Join our  
 Faith Community nurses  
 in the Sacred Heart Hall following  
 St. Margaret of Scotland's 8 am Mass.

## Weekend Mass Attendance

Weekend Of September 2nd/3rd



St. Mary		
4 pm	7 am	11 am
159	115	187

St. Margaret of Scotland		
4 pm	7:30 am	10 am
90	60	148

St. John the Evangelist		
4 pm	9:30 am	6 pm
131	196	112

We Pray for all students of The Holy  
 Rood Collaborative as they enter the  
 new school year!



**Why does the math  
 book always look  
 sad?**

(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  
tsousa@theholyrood.org | ext 219

## Family Faith Formation

Heather Hannaway, MA, DIR OF FAITH FORMATION  
hhannaway@theholyrood.org | ext 226

Courtney Callanan, MA, ASST DIR OF FAITH FORMATION  
courtney@theholyrood.org | ext 227

Shaun Bradley, FAITH FORMATION ASSOCIATE  
sbradley@theholyrood.org | ext 232

Elaine Kindler, FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR  
ekindler@theholyrood.org | ext 216

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

## Office Administration

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

Jamie Brown, 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



presented by  
Atty. Annmarie Roark



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:  
(both presentations are identical,  
so choose the one that best fits your schedule.)

Sunday October 1 • 2 pm at St. Mary Hall

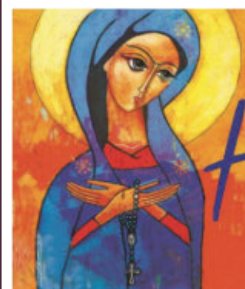
Tuesday, October 3 • 6 pm St. John Hall



Thank you to our Faith  
Community Nursing Ministry  
for bringing the event to us!

**TIME FLIES! ONLY 8 WEEKS LEFT...**

**DON'T FORGET TO REPORT YOUR HAIL MARY'S!**



Sixth Annual

*Hail Mary*  
challenge

Monday, May 1 - Tuesday, October 31, 2023

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

AUG 28-SEP 3	TOTAL-TO-DATE	%AGE OF GOAL
102,693	809,868	80.99%

# 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 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  
THIS 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.

## BAPTISM

We joyfully welcome the following children into

our collaborative family. May the Lord continue to bless these children and their parents and fill their homes with the light of faith.



### BAPTIZED AT ST. MARY

Madeline Juliet Ridge

### BAPTIZED AT ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

Miles Joseph Baker

Millie Anne Babiye Kazibwe

Charlotte Elizabeth Nakato NaKazibwe

Jiro Alistair Mijares Vila

Emma Vu

### BAPTIZED AT ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND

Cayden Michael Barlow

Jameson Michael Zampacorta



## 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

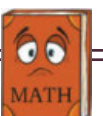
November 3, 10, 17

The cost is \$20 per person.

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



answer: because it's full of problems



# Rood Collaborative community

I'm 45 years old. In February, for the first time in my life, I experienced the True Presence of Christ in the Eucharist—a moment of awe so intense and powerful, it left me almost fearful until I found comfort in Scripture.

This experience left me with a new devotion to the Eucharist and a wish that everyone could experience what I did. I believe God's timing in revealing himself to me was no accident: a national Eucharistic Revival movement was launched on Corpus Christi of this same year. Wanting to honor my devotion to the Body and Blood of Christ on its feast day, and with support from Fr. Brian and Fr. Fernando, I planned a Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration.

I had no idea what to expect. That particular Sunday turned out to feature perfect weather after a week of rain, and I was nervous no one would come. But you were there. We sang. We prayed together. We spent time in the Presence of Christ. Many of you asked Fr. Fernando and me if we could hold these regularly, and after some discussion, we are happy to announce...



**In addition to our current Eucharistic Adoration schedule, beginning next Sunday, September 17th, we'll begin a monthly devotion of Eucharistic Adoration. Every third Sunday from now through June 2024, we will gather at St. Mary Church at 3:30 pm.** We will sing. We will pray together. We will adore our Lord in the Eucharist. Some of you told me you wished we'd left more time for silent prayer, so we'll make sure to leave space.

Come and spend an hour celebrating God's gift of the Eucharist to us. Bring with you anything that will bring you closer to God: family, friends, a Bible, your Rosary beads, or just yourself. I hope you'll join us!

-Mike Stack

MARK YOUR CALENDAR WITH THE FUTURE 2023/24 DATES:

- |                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| • September 17, 2023 | • January 21, 2024  |
| • October 15, 2023   | • February 18, 2024 |
| • November 19, 2023  | • March 17, 2024    |
| • December date TBD  | • April 21, 2024    |
|                      | • May 19, 2024      |
|                      | • June 16, 2024     |



**Sunday**  
December 17  
**2:30 pm**  
**Lowell Memorial Auditorium**

Join the Boston Pops Esplanade

Orchestra and Conductor Keith Lockhart for their sparkling and beloved Holiday Pops concert. Capturing the magic of the Christmas season and the winter charms of New England, the Boston Pops will perform their signature Sleigh Ride, as well as other Holiday classics.

There are 60 tickets available first-come, first served basis. Tickets are \$81.

Parquet C Rows A and B: Seats 1-10  
Parquet D Row A: Seats 1-9  
Row B and C: Seats 1-10  
Row D: Seats 1-11

Get yours before they sell out by contacting Lynn at (978) 590-7863!

## 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 in the St. John NPC Lobby, St. Mary Parish Hall or the St. Margaret Church Entrance



# 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](http://www.theholyrood.org); click on the stewardship tab

## IMPORTANT REMINDER TO DONORS

If you make your offertory or any other donation via check, it is extremely important that the check is made 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. To eliminate your need to re-write a new check, and to allow timely processing of your donation, please be sure to make note of this directive. As always, thank you for your generous financial and prayerful support of our community!

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 September 2nd/3rd	Fiscal Year-To-Date September 3rd	Fiscal YTD Average/Week
Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses	\$15,000*	\$150,000	\$15,000
Actual Received	\$12,929	\$119,441	\$11,944
Shortfall/ Overage	-\$2,071	-\$30,559	-\$3,056

ST. JOHN WEEKLY OFFERTORY	Weekend of September 2nd/3rd	Fiscal Year-To-Date September 3rd	Fiscal YTD Average/Week
Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses	\$10,300*	\$103,000	\$10,300
Actual Received	\$7,829	\$81,986	\$8,199
Shortfall/ Overage	-\$2,471	-\$21,014	-\$2,101

ST. MARGARET WEEKLY OFFERTORY	Weekend of September 2nd/3rd	Fiscal Year-To-Date September 3rd	Fiscal YTD Average/Week
Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses	\$4,800*	\$48,000	\$4,800
Actual Received	\$5,393	\$42,176	\$4,218
Shortfall/ Overage	\$593	-\$5,824	-\$582



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.

thank you

## FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF OUR PARISHES



## Introducing our New Parish Council Members...

In the August 13th bulletin, the names of the six new Parish Council members were announced. Over the next two weeks, we will be introducing them, so that you may learn a little about who they are as well as recognize them in the event that you would like to address any issues/concerns that you would like brought up at any of their monthly meetings.



**Ray Wagner** and his wife Christine have been parishioners of St. John since 2016. Although they are now 'empty nesters' and live in Hudson, NH, they still call The Holy Rood Collaborative their home, where they attend weekend Mass and remain quite involved in parish life. Ray attended his first ACTS Retreat in 2017 and has served on their CORE Committee since 2018. He also serves as a Eucharistic Minister. This is his second 'tour of duty' on the council, as he previously served from 2017-2020.

**Lorraine Huard** has been a parishioner of St. Margaret of Scotland since 2004, having previously been a lifelong parishioner of Notre Dame de Lourdes Parish in Lowell prior to its closing. She is a retired educator and a resident of Dracut. She shares that being active in a number of parish ministries has been fulfilling and she looks forward to working alongside Fr. Brian and the other members of the council on behalf of the people of our Collaborative.



**Michele Manzelli** has been a member of St. Mary Parish for 22 years. Raised Catholic, Mass was a part of large Sunday family dinners. Up until 2014, she shared her weekly Mass attendance with St. Clements in Medford, where she would often visit in order to care for her elderly in-laws until their passing. Michele has volunteered in all capacities of Faith Formation, raising her children—now 17 and 23—in the program. You will see her at many of the Deep Dive events, enriching her knowledge with all that the Church has to share.

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.

Each parish in the Archdiocese of Boston is required to have a parish pastoral council.

The PPC's role is to assist the pastor in his leadership role of planning, organizing, initiating, promoting, coordinating and reviewing the evangelization, worship, religious education and service activities within the parish.

## Collaborative Parish Council

Parish Council matters can be sent to:  
[collaborativeppc@theholyrood.org](mailto:collaborativeppc@theholyrood.org)

Steve McMillan (SM) - Chair

Lorraine Freitas (SMS)

Beth Jacavano (SJE)

Dawn King (SJE)

Justin Leach (SM)

Paul Sneeringer (SMS)

Lyle Wheeler (SMS)

Lorraine Huard (SMS)

Drew Jubinville (SJE)

Cathy Latina (SM)

Michele Manzelli (SM)

Ray Wagner (SJE)

## 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

Celeste Dunn

Paul Brzezinski

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

Betty McKiernan

## 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

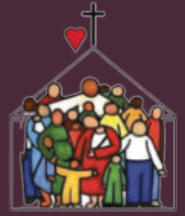
Paul Therrien

Ted Powers

Paul Rigazio

# 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

## REGISTER NOW

[www.holyrood.org/faith-formation-registration](http://www.holyrood.org/faith-formation-registration) or scan QR code!



## only 14 days 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!**

## 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!





# VACATION BIBLE FUN 2023



THE TRUTH CHAMPIONS



THE LIGHT BEARERS



THE BIBLE WARRIORS



THE FAITH FINDERS



THE HOPE SEEKERS



THE PEACE MAKERS



THE JOY GIVERS



THE LOVE GUARDIANS



TO SEE ALL THE  
PHOTOS FROM VBF  
WEEK, visit  
[www.theholyrood.org  
/vbf-of-days-past](http://www.theholyrood.org/vbf-of-days-past)





Deacon John Hunt's homily last weekend was quite good, and it really got me thinking. He compared last Sunday's Gospel to the previous Sunday's Gospel, concerning Peter's reaction to Jesus. Just as a reminder of the

two salient differences: When Jesus asks his disciples directly, "Who do you say that I am?" Peter responds, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus tells Peter that he is the rock on which the faith will be built. Right after this encounter Jesus speaks about his Passion. He makes clear what will happen to Him—that he will be crucified and then raised from the dead. Peter immediately takes Jesus aside and rebukes Him saying, "God forbid, Lord! No such thing shall ever happen to you." Jesus turns and says to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking *not* as God does, but as human beings do."

As I pondered Deacon John's homily, it made me think about the word 'Christ', or Messiah, which is what Christ means. As I thought more about the two interactions, it struck me that at the heart of the issue Peter did not really appreciate fully what he was saying. Peter's response to the Transfiguration was, "Lord, it is good that we are here." We are told that he did not really know what he was saying. Peter's initial response to Jesus' question "Who do you say that I am?" was correct. However, Jesus tells us that Peter's response did not simply come from him, but that his words were divinely inspired. The problem with Peter's response, I think, is twofold.

First, Peter did not really understand what was prophesied about the Christ/Messiah. He had his own ideas about what he was saying. Most likely he expected something very different for Jesus. Most likely he thought that some action of worldly power would demonstrate Jesus' authority and importance. This can be recognized in the scene of James and John asking to sit at Jesus' right and left when He comes into his Kingdom. The other apostles got quite upset, I believe, because they didn't think of it first. They all saw Jesus as a means of their getting ahead in the world. They were thinking as human beings do, not as God does. The focus of the apostles was on what would happen to them in this world and how Jesus would fit into that picture.

When we see Jesus in this way, we are focusing on the wrong reality. Our focus should be on eternity—or heaven. Now that does not mean this life is not important, but that it finds its meaning only in how it leads us to embracing eternal life. Otherwise, we can become an obstacle to both growing in our faith and leading others to Christ. When the world becomes our focus, then how Christ fits into our life becomes about how He can help us reach our goals.

The purpose of Christ's mission is no longer centered on salvation, but is about helping us feel good about ourselves. It is about boosting our self-image. It is about changing Christ to fit our way of looking at the world. And that is when Jesus tells us, "Get behind me, Satan." (The word Satan means adversary.) We essentially no longer act as a follower of Christ but as his adversary. We are working against what Christ is trying to accomplish.

How this all happens arises out of the second problem in Peter's response. He did not really listen to what he actually said. Jesus made it clear that Peter's response did not come from him but that it was divinely inspired. Peter did not stop and ask himself, "What is God trying to tell me?" Rather, he simply assumed he understood Jesus and took on face value that God would see things his way. Thus, he became an obstacle, an adversary of God. When we do not take time to sit and listen to the Lord, we are going to get things wrong and that can cause catastrophic events in our life. Most likely we are going to start moving away from Christ. And since He is the only way to salvation, that should tell us that we are heading in the wrong direction.

Over time Peter will come to give his life completely over to Christ. He will suffer martyrdom by being crucified in Rome. The great thing about Peter's story is that it gives us hope. His following of Jesus was not a straight and even path. He falls down a lot and moves in the wrong direction from time to time. But Jesus is patient with him and gives him the grace necessary to ultimately stay the course.

Peter eventually begins to think *not* as human beings do, but as God does. His deepest desire becomes about following Christ and leading others to Christ. Once that becomes his focus, he understands who Christ really is. He no longer fears taking up his cross and following Christ. His focus is not about deserving salvation but, simply, living out what Christ has won for him.

It is so easy to lose our proper focus. It is so easy to seek a different Christ, but that is the way of damnation. That is when we become an obstacle and adversary of Christ. But as Peter teaches us, even then it does not need to be the final reality. Our God is loving, merciful, and compassionate and, of course, patient. When we lose our focus, He will seek us out to draw us back. He did that with Peter and He can do it with us.

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. Director of Faith Formation

Courtney Callanan

Next Sunday we will be celebrating the Confirmation of ~30 of our young people. It is important that we, as a community, support these young people with our prayers. There is of course, no right way to pray for these young men and women but in case you are at a loss for how to do so, allow me to share one way that I pray from them.

I have a Confirmation playlist, filled with songs about the Holy Spirit, that I will listen to in the weeks leading up to Confirmation. As I listen, I try to reflect on how the lyrics might apply to the Confirmandi and turn them into petitions on their behalf to our Lord. To give an idea of this, I offer the below prayer, using a hymn that is particularly apt for Confirmation. I invite you to pray it along with me.

*Come Holy Ghost, Creator Blest,  
And in our hearts take up Thy rest;  
Come with Thy Grace and heav'nly aid,  
To fill the hearts which Thou hast made.  
To fill the hearts which Thou hast made.*

Dear Lord, you have made each and every one of these young people; they are unique, unrepeatable creations through which you intend to bless the world. In Baptism, You were invited into their hearts for the first time, so they might live their lives knowing, loving, and following You. Please allow their hearts to be open to you once more at Confirmation. Fill them with Your love and goodness.

*O Comfort Blest to Thee we cry,  
Thou heav'nly Gift of God most high;  
Thou fount of life and fire of love,  
And sweet anointing from above,  
And sweet anointing from above.*

Dear Lord, soon these young people will be anointed with sacred chrism. Please set them ablaze with love for You. Help them to recognize the gift that is Your presence in their lives and make them yearn to share that gift with others.

*Praise be to Thee Father and Son,  
And Holy Spirit Three in one;  
And may the Son on us bestow  
The gifts that from the Spirit flow,  
The gifts that from the Spirit flow.*

Dear Lord, these young people have learned about the 7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit, given in Baptism and strengthened in Confirmation. Help them to embrace these gifts of Wisdom, Knowledge, Understanding, Good Counsel, Fortitude, Fear of the Lord, and Piety. Allow them to use these gifts to pursue their own salvation and the salvation of others. Amen.

## From our Parochial Vicar

Fr. Fernando Ayala

### A Christian Way to Correct Others

Christian love demands from us that we help our brothers and sisters do what is right. We owe correction to them. This includes even those who have sinned against us. Yet, many times correcting someone leads to arguments and fights, especially within our own families and friends. So, many of us may try to avoid the whole situation by offering no correction at all. However, we owe our brothers and sisters fraternal correction out of love for them. In the Gospel of Matthew (18:15-20), Christ gives us a general guideline for doing so:

- First, we correct them in private or in secret—just between the two of you. If he or she listens, we may have saved them.
- Second, if they do not listen after multiple attempts to correct them privately, we seek the help of one or two of their good friends or relatives. We do so to help them do what is right.
- Third, if they still refuse to listen, we tell more people so that the community may be able to help them. Keep in mind that we only tell those who can help them. We do not tell others just for the sake of telling others.
- Fourth, if they still refuse to listen, even after trying to correct them with the help of their own community, we leave it be. It is now time to just pray for them. It is now in God's hands.

Sometimes we act opposite to what Christ has revealed to us. We start by telling someone's faults to everyone first, and the person who is at fault is the last to know. Other times, we may overdo it. We may feel the need to go on correcting everyone when we ought not to. Fraternal correction can only happen where there already exists a common unity or a place of trust. It can only happen with someone who is a 'frater' (i.e., brother, sister, friend). Fraternal correction is like pruning: if we overdo it, we may end up killing the plant—or the bond that already exists.





## **\*\* UPDATE \*\***

We wanted to reach out and give you an update on the Ukrainian family which you have so generously supported with kind words, many prayers, and selfless donations. They have been in the US now for 2 months. During this time, we worked hard on our goal of organizing their paperwork and affairs in the US system of bureaucracy. Things have been moving forward, but as I'm sure you know, progress is gradual. We also spent time helping them to become familiar with their surroundings and resources—in Billerica, Lowell, and Boston. We would like to say thank you to these special people who helped in significant and sacrificial ways:

- *Social Justice Committee via Donna Gambon:*  
\$250 Market Basket Gift Card
- *John Salyards and K of C Council #3963:*  
\$500 donation towards housing
- *Linda Sutter and Steve Centore:*  
gift of a used minivan

The next big goal in the coming 2 months is to help the family in their search for housing. This is a very big effort, but an important one since they are expecting a new baby in December. An example of a possible housing situation might be the house of a permanent nursing home resident. Perhaps the children of such a person don't feel ready to sell the house, but the house can be used to help the Ukrainian family in the meantime. Another idea is someone who has a vacant in-law apartment or secondary housing unit on their property. If you have other viable ideas for independent housing space, please reach out to Marianne at [Marianne.Hudelson@gmail.com](mailto:Marianne.Hudelson@gmail.com), thank you!!

Please consider donating to the GoFundMe, or sharing it with friends or family who want to help this Ukrainian family in a direct and tangible way. You might also share this fundraiser with friends who are interested in helping women and families build resilience in the midst of crisis pregnancies. And above all, THANK YOU FOR THE PRAYERS!!! God is good!

Gratefully, Steve and Marianne Hudelson

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-for-ukrainian-family-in-billerica>



## **5th Annual Worcester Catholic Women's Conference Saturday, October 7th**

St. Joseph School  
Richard A Novak Gymnasium  
47 Whitcomb St. Webster, MA

### **THEME: "Male and Female He Created Them"**

Join us for this year's Catholic Women's Conference where you can rediscover and renew your faith! There will be wonderful talks by great national speakers and opportunities to meet them and make new friends. There will be time for fellowship, confession, and to celebrate the Eucharist... many opportunities to strengthen your Catholic identity!

Visit <https://wcwconference.com/> for ALL the details, including the speaker introductions and the day's schedule.

All women are welcome! Bring a friend or two!



STEP RIGHT UP FOR THE  
GREATEST FUNDRAISER OF ALL!



## **Presentation Of Mary Academy's 26th FALL FUN FEST Fundraiser**

11 am - 4 pm | Saturday, September 23

Presentation of Mary Academy  
182 Lowell Road, Hudson, NH

Activities include inflatables, face painting, pumpkin painting, tie dye, petting zoo, food trucks, crafters/vendors, theme basket raffles, Yankee raffles, axe play and **MUCH MORE!**

For more information,  
email [ParentGroup@PMAschool.org](mailto:ParentGroup@PMAschool.org)

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

# Support Groups at



THE HOLY ROOD  
COLLABORATIVE

No parent should outlive their child, and yet it happens. And the pain that follows that loss often 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 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 meets year-round, 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](mailto:pjdpwalsh@comcast.net).

## hope and healing adult grief support

When someone close to you dies, everything changes in your family, in your life, and your dreams. Often this can turn your life upside down. Know you are not alone in your grief and loneliness.



**The Hope and Healing Adult Grief Support Group meets on the last Saturday of the month from September through May.** However, due to vacation, our September gathering is scheduled for:

**Saturday, September 16  
10:30 am - 12 noon • St. John OPC**

All are welcome to a safe place to share your story and find comfort, hope and encouragement, as you continue a new path in life. Registration is not required.

the family connection  
strengthening families dealing with addiction



The Family Connection is a parish-based ministry that has been in existence since 2017. It provides support for families dealing with alcohol and/or drug abuse of a child, spouse, grandchild or friend. Our aim is to provide families/friends with a better understanding of

the disease of addiction through educational reading materials, videos, and discussions. We also have speakers who share their stories of recovery and how they are now living healthy, happy lives.

This confidential meeting provides a compassionate and supportive environment that encourages those in attendance to share their questions, feelings and concerns in order to learn from each other and gain hope during a very difficult time.

Please contact [nancyk@theholyrood.org](mailto:nancyk@theholyrood.org) for further information or if you would like to join us.

Support  
offered through  
the Archdiocese

The Project Rachel ministry of the Archdiocese of Boston extends a special invitation to women suffering from the pain of a past abortion to attend a one-day retreat. **These retreats are held on Saturdays from 9 am - 5 pm ( Sept 23 and Nov 11 )** at a confidential location.

## Come to the Waters of Healing

There is a limit of 10 participants per retreat so reserve your spot today by calling (508) 651-3100 or email [help@projectrachelboston.com](mailto:help@projectrachelboston.com).



## 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.

**NOTE: A 2-week notice is required for scheduling all intentions.**

### St. John the Evangelist

<b>SUN, SEP 10</b>	10:30 am:	People of the Collaborative
	6:00 pm:	Paul McMeniman: Memorial
<b>MON, SEP 11</b>	9:00 am:	Paul Cole: Memorial
<b>TUE, SEP 12</b>	9:00 am:	Nancy Blanco and Jean Lorrey: Memorial
<b>WED, SEP 13</b>	9:00 am:	Kevin McMahon: Memorial
<b>THU, SEP 14</b>	9:00 am:	Jack Costello: Memorial
<b>SAT, SEP 16</b>	4:00 pm:	Maura Dolan: Memorial
<b>SUN, SEP 17</b>	9:30 am:	Jimmy and Jay Lorrey: Memorial
	6:00 pm:	People of the Parish

### St. Margaret of Scotland

<b>SAT, SEP 9</b>	4:00 pm:	Keefe, Hunter and McBride Families: Memorial
<b>SUN, SEP 10</b>	7:30 am:	Vincent Latham: Memorial
<b>MON, SEP 11</b>	8:00 am:	In Memory Of the victims and survivors of 9/11 and in Gratitude for the First Responder that bravely served
<b>TUE, SEP 12</b>	8:00 am:	Rita Doherty: Memorial
<b>WED, SEP 13</b>	8:00 am:	John Recco: Memorial
<b>SAT, SEP 16</b>	4:00 pm:	Dcn John's 25th Anniversary of Ordination
<b>SUN, SEP 17</b>	7:30 am:	People of the Parish
	10:00 am:	For Those who have No One to Pray for Them

### St. Mary Parish

<b>SAT, SEP 9</b>	4:00 pm:	John Ferrari: 50th Anniversary
<b>MON, SEP 11</b>	7:00 am:	In Memory Of the victims and survivors of 9/11 and in Gratitude for the First Responder that bravely served
<b>TUE, SEP 12</b>	7:00 am:	Joseph Buchinkas: Memorial
<b>THUR, SEP 14</b>	7:00 am:	Delbert and Martha Patton: Memorial
<b>SAT, SEP 16</b>	4:00 pm:	People of the Parish
<b>SUN, SEP 17</b>	7:00 am:	Robin Mullin: Birthday Memorial
	11:00 am:	David Hickey: 8th 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.



## 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. 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.

## Recent Funerals

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



**John Kelley**

Tuesday, September 5 • St. Margaret

**Paul Vezina**

Friday, September 8 • St. Margaret





Serving St. Margaret of Scotland Parish Since 1939



# Morse-Bayliss

## Funeral Home



122 Princeton Blvd., Lowell • 978-458-6841 • [www.morsebaylissfuneralhome.com](http://www.morsebaylissfuneralhome.com)

**Preplanning Available**

**James F. Dolan**  
Type 3 Funeral Director

**Andrew J. Dolan**  
Type 3 Funeral Director

**Fred Healy**  
Type 6 Funeral Director

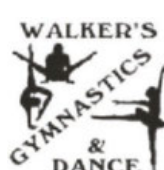
Active Supporters & Parishioners for the Holy Rood Collaborative  
*Helping Families Honor & Celebrate the Life of Their Loved Ones*



**MAHONEY OIL COMPANY, INC.**  
Home Heating Oil & Boiler Services • Automatic Delivery  
Cash Discounts • Free Estimates • Tank Removal • Annual Cleaning  
**978-453-1581**  
120 PLAIN ST. 🍀 LOWELL, MA 🍀 [MAHONEYOILCO.COM](http://MAHONEYOILCO.COM)



**"Multi-Million Dollar Club"**  
**ED OLIVERI, REALTOR / PARISHIONER**  
978-551-2944 | [EdOliveri@aol.com](mailto:EdOliveri@aol.com)  
Servicing the Merrimack Valley  
& surrounding area. MA & NH licensed



~ Since 1978 ~  
(978) 459-4954  
312 Plain Street  
Lowell, MA  
[www.WalkersGymnasticsDance.com](http://www.WalkersGymnasticsDance.com)

Driveways • Sidewalks • Parking Lots  
**BOB MULDOON PAVING SERVICE**  
121-23 Concord Street, Lowell, MA  
(978) 458-4933 • (978) 423-8261 cell  
**OVER 35 YEARS EXPERIENCE**  
Free Estimates - References Available  
New - Stamped Pavement  
Excavating • Drainage • Retaining Walls  
[www.bobmuldoonpaving.com](http://www.bobmuldoonpaving.com)

**TESSIER ELECTRIC**  
FOR ALL YOUR ELECTRICAL NEEDS  
Residential and Commercial  
No Job Too Big or Too Small  
**978-815-8999**



**LET'S GROW YOUR BUSINESS**  
Place Your Ad Here and Support Our Parish!  
**CONTACT ME Gordon Deacon**  
[gdeacon@4LPi.com](mailto:gdeacon@4LPi.com) • (800) 888-4574 x3320

Fuel Oil • Wood Pellets  
Heating Equipment Installation  
**COX FUEL COMPANY**  
316 Plain St.  978-454-7887  
Family Owned & Operated Since 1927  
[www.coxfuel.com](http://www.coxfuel.com)



**DEPENDABLE WINDOW CLEANING**  
We clean all types of building exteriors including vinyl, stucco, brick, aluminum and more...  
• Window Cleaning • Power Washing  
• Soft Washing • Pressure Washing  
• Exterior House Washing  
Window Washing - antique or contemporary windows  
Pressure Washing for house walls, pool sides and decks  
Painting prep to prepare your house or deck for painting  
Gutter cleaning, year-round  
483 Stevens St., Lowell, MA 01863  
**978-967-5657**  
[dependablewindow@gmail.com](mailto:dependablewindow@gmail.com)  
[www.dependable-window.com](http://www.dependable-window.com)

**WE APPRECIATE OUR ADVERTISERS!**  
They allow us to print this bulletin. Thank you!

**David Murphy**  
Plumbing • Heating  
Gas Fitting • Inc.  
EST. 1983  
**978-458-0481**  
MA LIC 9723 • NH LIC 2154



978-459-9000  
Member FDIC  
[Enterprisebanking.com](http://Enterprisebanking.com)

# McDonough Funeral Home

14 Highland Street - Lowell, MA

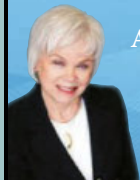
[www.McDonoughFuneralHome.com](http://www.McDonoughFuneralHome.com)

Family Owned & Operated - 5 Generations

978-458-6816



Roark & Mansur Law PLLC.



ANNMARIE ROARK

Elder Law  
Medical Planning  
Estate & Trust Planning  
Probate  
43 Years Experience

229 Billerica Rd., Chelmsford, MA  
(978) 256-4167 • [roarkmansur.com](http://roarkmansur.com)

## ST. JOSEPH CEMETERY

96 Riverneck Rd. • E. Chelmsford, MA

(978) 458-4851



**O'Donnell**  
FUNERAL HOME

*"Discover the Difference"*

276 Pawtucket Street • Lowell, MA 01854

**James F. O'Donnell, Jr. Funeral Director**

*A Tradition of Caring*

*Celebrating Over 135 Years of Your Trust*

**Free Pre-planning**

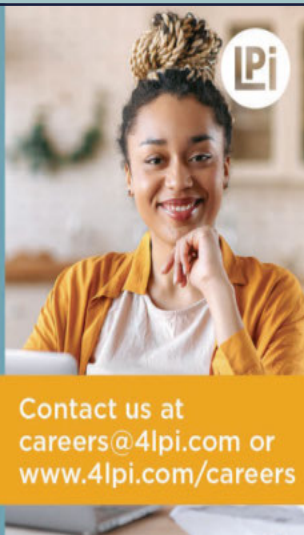
978-458-8768 • [www.ODonnellFuneralHome.com](http://www.ODonnellFuneralHome.com)

## WE'RE HIRING!

AD SALES EXECUTIVES

BE YOURSELF.  
BRING YOUR PASSION.  
WORK WITH PURPOSE.

- Paid training
- Some travel
- Work-life balance
- Full-Time with benefits
- Serve your community



Contact us at  
[careers@4ipi.com](mailto:careers@4ipi.com) or  
[www.4ipi.com/careers](http://www.4ipi.com/careers)

## LUZ GRANITE CORP

Monuments, Markers, Cemetery Lettering

1208 Gorham St., Lowell, MA

978-459-9799

Adrian Luz, Jr. • Artistry in Granite

## NEVER MISS OUR BULLETIN!

**SUBSCRIBE**

Have our bulletin emailed  
to you every week.



Visit [www.parishesonline.com](http://www.parishesonline.com)

## catholicmatch®

Massachusetts

[CatholicMatch.com/MA](http://CatholicMatch.com/MA)



**Place Your Ad Here and Support  
our Parish!**

Instantly create and  
purchase an ad with

**AD CREATOR STUDIO**



[4ipi.com/adcreator](http://4ipi.com/adcreator)



Ad info. 1-800-477-4574 • Publication Support 1-800-888-4574 • [www.4ipi.com](http://www.4ipi.com)

Holy Rood Collaborative

03-1137