



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

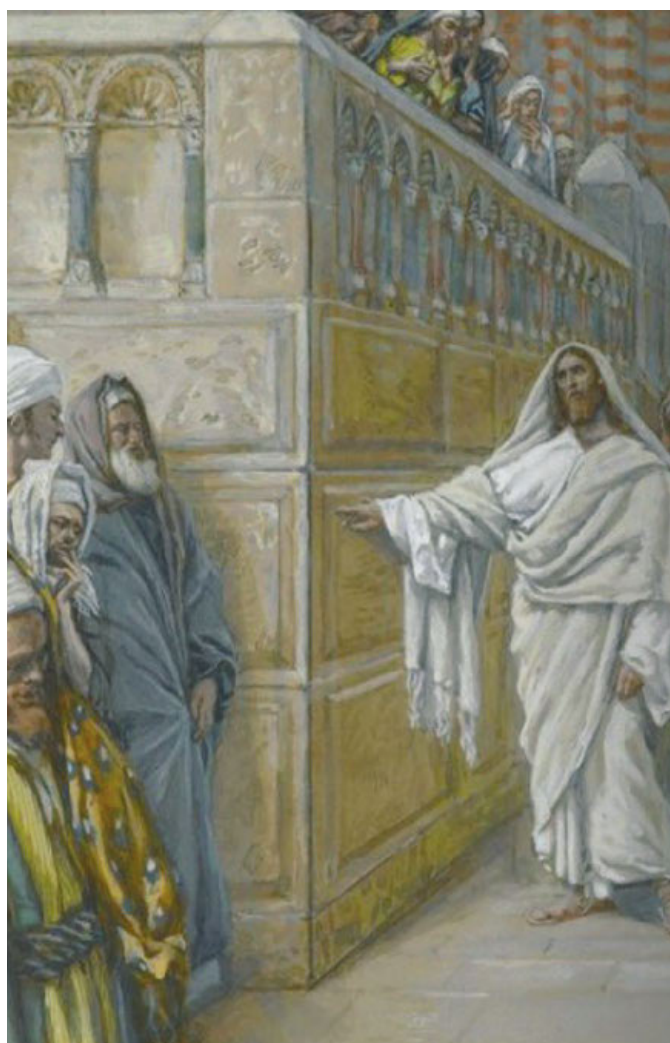


October 8, 2023

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.”

-Matthew 21:42ab



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
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, October 9

**** PARISH OFFICES CLOSED: Columbus Day ****

Mass on a Mountain • depart SM Parking Lot at 7:30 pm
Rosary in the Grotto • 7 pm • St. Mary Marian Grotto

Tuesday, October 10

Blood Pressure Clinic • following 9 am Mass in SJE Hall
Tuesday Coffee Group • following 9 am Mass in SJE Hall
Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3 pm • SJE Church and LIVEVIEW
Confession • 4:30 - 5:30 pm • SMS Church
Christmas Musical Rehearsal • 4:30 - 6 pm • SJE Hall
Rosary in the Grotto • 7 pm • St. Mary Marian Grotto
Rosary • 7 pm • SM Church and LIVEVIEW

Wednesday, October 11

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
Women's Book Club • 6:30 - 8 pm • SMS Sacred Heart Hall
Rosary in the Grotto • 7 pm • St. Mary Marian Grotto
Rosary • 7 pm • SM Church and LIVEVIEW
Troop 77 Scout Meeting • 7 - 8:30 pm • SM Hall

Thursday, October 12

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
Rosary in the Grotto • 7 pm • St. Mary Marian Grotto
Rosary • 7 pm • SM Church and LIVEVIEW
St. Mary Youth Choir Rehearsal • 4:45 - 5:45 pm • SM Hall
St. Mary 11am Choir/Ensemble Rehearsal • 7:30 pm • SM Church

Friday, October 13

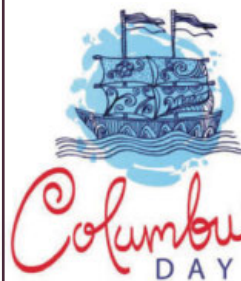
Knitting and Crocheting • 3 - 5 pm • SM Hall
Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3 pm • SJE Church and LIVEVIEW
Life in the Spirit Seminar • 7 - 9 pm • SJE Hall
Trivia Night • 7 - 9 pm • SMS Sacred Heart Hall
Rosary in the Grotto • 7 pm • St. Mary Marian Grotto
Rosary • 7 pm • SM Church and LIVEVIEW

Saturday, October 14

Confessions • refer to cover
St. Mary Men's Group • 7:45 - 8:45 am • SM PC Conf Room 1
Rosary Procession • Gather in SM Parking Lot at 1 pm
St. Mary Bell Choir • 2:30 - 3:30 pm • SM Choir Loft

Sunday, October 15

Prayer Shawl Ministry • 9:30 - 11:30 am • SJE OPC
African Community General Meeting • 1:30 pm • SJE Mariotti Room
Christmas Musical Rehearsal • 1 - 3 pm • SJE Hall
Holy Hour w/ Music • 3:30 - 4:30 pm • SM Church



The Parish Offices
will be closed
Monday, October 9.

LIVEVIEW Chaplet,
LIVEVIEW Rosary
and Confessions
are cancelled.



2021 Synod 2024
For a synodal Church

This past Wednesday, October 4th, the
**16th Ordinary General Assembly of
the synod of bishops got underway!**

This synod, as well as ALL activity that
concerns the faithful, needs your prayers!

To learn more, and to stay in touch with
this process, we have included a link on
our webpage for quick access.

<https://theholyrood.org/synod-2021-2024>

This is another opportunity to thank all
those who participated in this process
back in February 2021!

Weekend Mass Attendance

Weekend Of September 30/October 1



St. Mary		
4 pm	7 am	11 am
146	116	204

St. Margaret of Scotland		
4 pm	7:30 am	10 am
87	59	183

St. John the Evangelist			
4 pm	9:30 am	12 pm	6 pm
127	194	57	157



**What do you call a
student with a
dictionary in
their pocket?**

(answer on page 7)

For those staff members that have extensions listed, the number to call is (978) 256-2374.

To send an email, please visit our website at <https://theholyrood.org/staff>.

Clergy

Rev Brian E. Mahoney, Pastor | (978) 254-0560
Rev Fernando Ayala, Parochial Vicar | (978) 401-9844
Rev Patrick Alemayo, C.S.Sp., Parochial Vicar | (978) 451-6767
Rev Arnold F. Colletti, Sr. Priest in Residence | ext 116
Rev Raymond Benoit, Sr. Priest in Residence | ext 115
Dcn John C. Hunt, Jr., Permanent Deacon | (978) 254-2696
Dcn Frank Perez de Alderete, Permanent Deacon | (978) 254-0638
Dcn Barry V. Lloyd., Sr. Permanent Deacon | (978) 454-6505

Outreach & Parish Ministry

Sr. Lori Fleming, SNDdeN, Pastoral Associate | ext 225

Business Office

Paul Firicano, Business Manager | ext 220
Tina Sousa, Finance Coordinator | ext 219

Family Faith Formation

Heather Hannaway, ma, Dir of Faith Formation | ext 226
Courtney Callanan, ma, Asst Dir of Faith Formation | ext 227
Shaun Bradley, ma, Faith Formation Associate | ext 232
Elaine Kindler, Faith Formation Program Administrator | ext 216
Lynn Anne LaDuke, Faith Formation Coordinator | ext 240

Office Administration

Sue Beechin, Administrative Assistant | ext 236
Jamie Brown, part-time Scheduling Coordinator | ext 239
Donna Gambon, part-time Administrative Assistant | ext 248
Rae Russo, part-time Funeral Coordinator | (978) 306-5882

Facilities

Chris Goglia, Director of Facilities | (978) 341-4203
Dan Heider, Facilities Project Manager | ext 213

Bulletin, Website, Social Media

Christine Trznadel, Communications Director | (978) 254-4406

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.

Email submittals to christine@theholyrood.org or mail:

Parish Offices/ ATTN Christine Trznadel
115 Middlesex Street
North Chelmsford, MA, 01863

We will do our best to accommodate your request.

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



The role of the PPC 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. The PPC serves in an advisory role and the pastor takes into serious account their opinions and recommendations. The PPC should be an important means by which the pastor will hear the voice of the parish. Through its deliberations and consultation with the pastor, the PPC helps to unite the pastor and the parishioners. Together they discern the pastoral needs of the parish and ways in which those needs can be addressed.

Collaborative Parish Council

Parish Council matters can be sent to:
collaborativeppc@theholyrood.org

Steve McMillan - Chair

Lorraine Freitas	Lorraine Huard
Drew Jubinville	Dawn King
Alba Kuilan-Lamboy	Cathy Latina
Justin Leach	Michele Manzelli
Paul Sneeringer	Ray Wagner
Lyle Wheeler	

St. John Finance Council

SJE Finance matters can be sent to:
SJ.FC@theholyrood.org

Jeff Brown - Chair

John Bagni	Paul Brzezinski
Celeste Dunn	Grace Ann Steed

St. Margaret Finance Council

SMS finance matters can be sent to:
SMS.FC@theholyrood.org

Robert Gilman - Chair

Thomas Kirwin	Betty McKiernan
Marc Trudel	

St. Mary Finance Council

SM finance matters can be sent to:
SM.FC@theholyrood.org

Lauren Desforge - Chair

Armand DiLando	Ted Powers
Paul Therrien	Paul Rigazio

here's what's happening in The Holy

With an ENTIRE month to go, we are certainly within reach of our highest performance of 1,364,637 Hail Mary's prayed last year!



Sixth Annual
Hail Mary
challenge

May 1 - 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.

SEPT 25– OCT 1	TOTAL-TO-DATE	%AGE OF GOAL
56,019	1,017,061	101.7%

While enjoying a bowl of warm apple crisp topped with creamy vanilla ice cream (\$5) alongside a steamy—or chilled—cup of apple cider (\$1), we invite you to take a chance on a raffle basket (valued at \$300)! **If you can't stay, you can get your apple crisp to go; \$10 and \$20 pans available!**

The basket will be filled with gift cards, scratch tickets, wine, liquor and other miscellaneous items. Raffle tickets are \$1 per or 6 for \$5 and will be sold after St. John Masses on the weekend of October 21/22, as well as at the Harvest Event, which will be held in St. John Hall on...

November 4th following 4 pm Mass
November 5th following 9:30 am Mass

All proceeds will benefit St. John SVdP!

A HUGE thank you to Sullivan Farms Ice Cream, who is donating the ice cream for this event.



Sullivan Farms
Ice Cream
176 Middlesex Road • Tyngsboro



Maybe you weren't married in the Catholic Church but are now reconsidering that choice. Maybe you want to enter into a Sacramental Marriage but are not sure if that is even possible. Maybe God—through the below invitation—is telling you that it IS possible and is inviting you to learn more about next steps!

Come and See

Please join Fr. Brian and Fr. Fernando for an informal evening of information gathering; to learn what this process—called convalidation—is all about and how it works.

Join us on either of the following dates:

Tuesday, October 17th or 24th at 7 pm

St. Margaret Sacred Heart Hall | 374 Stevens Street, Lowell

Until then, here is a brief summary...

A convalidation is a religious ceremony by which a civil marriage is blessed—thereby recognized—by the Catholic Church. The word convalidation comes from the Latin word meaning “to firm up” or “to strengthen.”

Marriage in the Church brings about many spiritual gifts and benefits. It brings peace of heart, fullness of the sacraments and God's divine grace upon your union. It forms an unbreakable bond between you and your spouse and gives your marriage strength, because you are not in it all alone... God is in the middle!

Since this is a great blessing and also a great gift, God wants to extend it to as many as possible. Please join us!

Questions? Contact...

- Fr. Brian at (978) 254-0560
- Fr. Fernando at (978) 401-9844

If you prefer to email, please visit our website at <https://theholyrood.org/email-a-staff-member>

Please note **CONVALIDATION** in the subject line.

Rood Collaborative community

**5 pm on Saturday, October 28
St. Margaret Sacred Heart Hall**



Join us as we gather together to enjoy a meal and give thanks for all that we have... faith, family, and friends—both old and new!

As this is always St. Margaret's best-attended event, we suggest that you get your tickets **EARLY** as the number available are limited!

We are also looking for volunteers to...

- cook a turkey—which we will provide
- cook an vegetable—list to choose from
- provide a dessert

If you are able to help with any of these tasks, there will be a sign-up sheet at the ticket-sales tables.

Tickets are \$10 each and are available for purchase after ALL Masses at each church THIS weekend, October 7th/8th as well as at the Friday, October 13th Trivia Night at St. Margaret! Tickets are limited, so be sure to get yours sooner than later!

Introducing a Book Club for women!



Our first of six gatherings will be **THIS Wednesday, October 11**. If you haven't already, visit our website at www.theholyrood.org/womens-book-group for additional details, to register and to order the book. We will meet on...

- October 11, 18, 25 | November 1, 15, 29
- 6:30 - 8 pm
- St. Margaret of Scotland Sacred Heart Hall

All parishioners of the collaborative are invited...



trivia night
Fellowship, Fun and Food for the Brain!

THIS FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13th

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

Form a team of 8, or come by yourself and join up with others! Meet new people, have a few laughs, learn some new stuff!

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

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.

George Smiga examines some of the Bible's most fascinating passages about angels, exploring their ministry on God's behalf and drawing insights for our own spiritual lives. Because angels are mediators of God's presence and action, studying angels is studying God. Commentary, study and reflection questions, prayers, and access to online lectures are included.



To register and order materials, please visit our website...
www.theholyrood.org/adult-bible-study-current

- Tuesdays, 7-9 pm in SJE New Parish Center
- October 17, 24, 31 | November 7, 14, 21, 28
- **Registration Deadline: THIS TUESDAY, October 10**
- **Order Course Materials by October 10**

the Financial Page

Paul Firicano, Business Manager
(978) 256-2374, ext 220

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

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 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 Sept 30th/Oct 1st	Fiscal Year-To-Date October 1st	Fiscal YTD Average/Week
Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses	\$15,000*	\$210,000	\$15,000
Actual Received	\$12,811	\$170,731	\$12,195
Shortfall/ Overage	-\$2,189	-\$39,269	-\$2,805

ST. JOHN WEEKLY OFFERTORY	Weekend of Sept 30th/Oct 1st	Fiscal Year-To-Date October 1st	Fiscal YTD Average/Week
Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses	\$10,300*	\$144,200	\$10,300
Actual Received	\$7,399	\$115,771	\$8,269
Shortfall/ Overage	-\$2,901	-\$28,429	-\$2,031

ST. MARGARET WEEKLY OFFERTORY	Weekend of Sept 30th/Oct 1st	Fiscal Year-To-Date October 1st	Fiscal YTD Average/Week
Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses	\$4,800*	\$67,200	\$4,800
Actual Received	\$4,684	\$57,394	\$4,100
Shortfall/ Overage	-\$116	-\$9,806	-\$700



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

DO YOU KNIT OR CROCHET?

can you lend us your talent?

Every year, mittens, hats and scarves are handmade and given to, local agencies served by the St. Mary "Spirit of Christmas" program for distribution to those in need. Here's how you can help...



We are in need of donations of these items, made with acrylic yarn, in sizes from toddler to adult. There are no meetings to attend and you get to decide which items to craft, what size and how many!

Items will be collected in late November so they can be sorted in time for inclusion with the Spirit of Christmas gifts.

For more information, or if you would like to learn to knit, please contact Cathy Latina at (978) 256-0721.

Thank you for sharing the love and knowledge of your craft with those in need!



Sunday
December 17 2:30pm
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!

Remembering OUR LOVED ONES

Every November, we celebrate an Annual Mass of Remembrance at each of our churches to honor the lives of those who were buried from our churches the previous September-August. At these Masses, these names will be read. Additionally, we offer the opportunity to have loved ones' names who passed outside of this time frame to be included in the printed program. If you would like your loved one's name to appear, the best way to do so is to complete the form on our website www.theholyrood.org/annual-mass-of-remembrance. If you do not have access to a computer, please cut out/complete the below form (be sure to choose the correct church), place into an envelope marked "Christine Trznadel", and drop it into the offertory basket or into any of our black drop boxes **NO LATER THAN October 25th. Any submittals after this date can NOT be included in the program.**

St. Mary Mass of Remembrance Tuesday, November 7 at 7 pm

I would like the following name(s) of my deceased loved one (s) included in this evening's program. PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY.

CONTACT PHONE NUMBER (FOR CLARIFICATION PURPOSES)

St. John the Evangelist Mass of Remembrance Tuesday, November 14 at 7 pm

I would like the following name(s) of my deceased loved one (s) included in this evening's program. PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY.

CONTACT PHONE NUMBER (FOR CLARIFICATION PURPOSES)

St. Margaret of Scotland Mass of Remembrance Tuesday, November 21 at 7 pm

I would like the following name(s) of my deceased loved one (s) included in this evening's program. PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY.

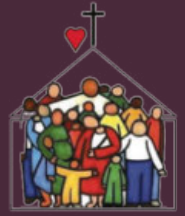
CONTACT PHONE NUMBER (FOR CLARIFICATION PURPOSES)



answer: a smartly pants.

Family Faith Formation

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



Heather Hannaway, MA • Director of Faith Formation • (978) 256-2374, ext 226
Courtney Callanan, MA • Assistant Director of Faith Formation • (978) 256-2374, ext 227
Shaun Bradley • Faith Formation Associate • (978) 256-2374, ext 232
Elaine Kindler • Faith Formation Program Administrator • (978) 256-2374, ext 216
Lynn Anne LaDuke • Faith Formation Coordinator • (978) 256-2374, ext 240

OCTOBER P.L.A.N.S. PREPARE TO LEARN AWESOME! new Stuff

Grade 1

I am a child of
God and a Member of His
Church!

Grade 2

First Reconciliation
and I am a child of God!

Grade 3-6

Families remain together in
the Parish Hall for
an overview of the
Sacraments.

Grade 7&8

Altaration Session 1
"More than Meets the Eye"

Confirmation I

Chosen Lesson 1
"Why am I here?"
and Chosen Lesson 2
"What makes me happy?"

*At least one parent must attend this
class session.*

Prayer:
Planning for Prayer

Confirmation II

Prayer:
Priorities—How can we put
God first in our lives?

*At least one parent must attend this
class session.*

OCTOBER CLASS SCHEDULE

GRADE 3-6 | SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15 | FAMILIES GATHER TOGETHER

SESSION A
9:15 - 10:45 AM
St. Mary Hall

SESSION B
12:15 - 1:45 PM
St. Mary Hall

SESSION A
10:45 AM - 12:15 AM
St. John Hall

GRADE 2 SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22

9:15 - 10:45 AM
St. Mary Hall

Parents attend last 30 minutes of class

CONFIRMATION I SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22 CONFIRMATION II SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15

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

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

Rosary at 7 pm
Monday-Friday
Month of October
St. Mary Grotto

Rosary Procession
Saturday, October 14
1:00 pm
Meet at St. Mary

Bonfire (RSVP)
Saturday, October 14
5:00 - 7:00 pm
St. John Great Lawn

OCTOBER DEEP DIVES

details for each deep dive can be found at
<https://theholyrood.org/deep-dives>

Living Rosary (RSVP)
Thursday, October 19
6:30 - 8:00 pm
St. Mary Church

NEW FOR 2023!

The link for ALL Deep Dive Events that require an
RSVP can now be found at a single location. Visit
<https://bit.ly/3PKbNmn> and select the tab of the event
you are interested in attending. Or, scan the QR code.



chwc
CATHOLIC HEART WORKCAMP

JULY 16-19, 2024 • WILMINGTON, DE

Shrines of Italy

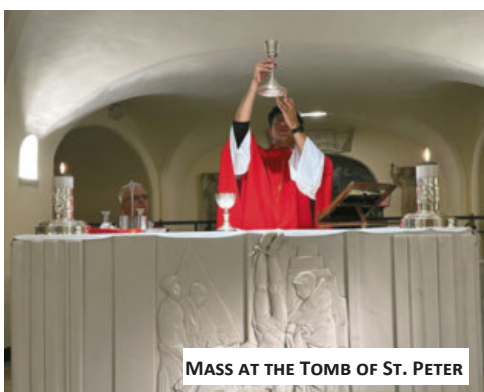
As you may remember, Deacon John celebrated his recent 25th Anniversary of Ordination with a pilgrimage to Italy. Here are a few photos that he wanted to share with us!



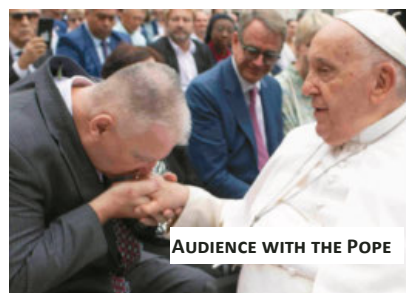
AUDIENCE WITH THE POPE



MASS AT THE TOMB OF ST. PETER



MASS AT THE TOMB OF ST. PETER



AUDIENCE WITH THE POPE



AUDIENCE WITH THE POPE



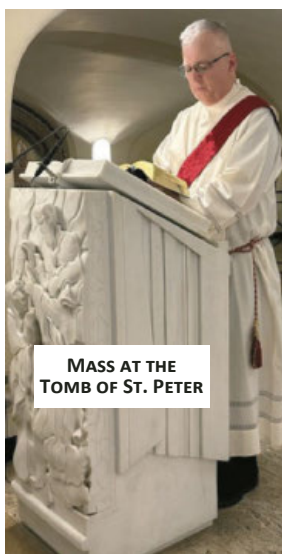
EUCCHARISTIC MIRACLE OF LANCIANO



ST. PADRE PIO



MASS AT THE TOMB OF ST. PETER



MASS AT THE TOMB OF ST. PETER



ST. MARCO CATHEDRAL



MASS AT BASILICA OF ST. JOHN LATERAN



PREACHING IN THE CHAPEL OF THE BASILICA OF ST. ANTHONY

Again...

Congratulations

Deacon John, and thank you for sharing some of your pilgrimage with us!



This past week we celebrated the Feast of the Guardian Angels. The guardian angels are a fascinating topic to me. I have had a lot of questions about them throughout my priesthood. And people have some interesting misconceptions about angels in general, and guardian angels in particular.

The first misconception is in relation to human beings and angels. Many times after a person dies, people will say that we now have an angel in heaven watching over us. They, of course, are referring to the person who has died, but from a Catholic, theological perspective this is simply not true. A human being can *never* become an angel. Angels are a different order of creation. They are purely spiritual beings with no corporeal (physical/bodily) aspect to them. By nature, human beings are both spiritual and corporeal and, as such, we can never be angels. When people die and hopefully go to heaven, they are, in a sense, incomplete. They are spiritual beings in heaven but they are *not* angels—they are saints; the difference is important. At the resurrection of the dead, on the last day, peoples' souls will be reunited with their bodies. Until that time, they are disembodied human beings in heaven awaiting the consummation of the promises of Christ. Both saints and angels will have their own roles in heaven, but all will be focused on one thing: worshiping God through eternal praise and thanksgiving.

Many people think of angels as having bodies, probably based on cultural depictions of angels in books and movies. We tend to treat angels as though they are supercharged human beings who are just closer to God. We have, of course, pictures of angels in church, particularly Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael. For the Church, artwork such as paintings, icons, or sculptures are *not* intended to make us believe that angels have bodies like us. Rather, their purpose is to help us ponder the nature of angels: we need to create a human construct to help us comprehend their existence and their ultimate meaning. Such artwork simply gives us the ability to do so.

It is true that people have encountered angels and seen them in bodily forms but, again, God is simply trying to help us out: a being that is purely spiritual would be difficult for us to recognize as real. God, therefore, allows our mind to construct an image that looks physical but, in reality, is not. This is what allows human beings to interact with the purely spiritual in a way that makes sense in a human context.

Another popular but erroneous activity that people take on is coming up with the "name" of their guardian angel. The truth is that from a Catholic

perspective, guardian angels have no names. The purpose of an angel's existence is to be a messenger from God. That is what the word angel means. Their function, in a sense, is in their name. The "names" given to Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael speak to the functions they are called to perform for God. As Pope Saint Gregory the Great wrote, "Some angels are given proper names to denote the service they are empowered to perform. In that holy city, where perfect knowledge flows from the vision of almighty God, those who have no names may easily be known. But personal names are assigned to some, not because they could not be known without them but, rather, to denote their ministry when they came among us. Thus, Michael means 'Who is like God'; Gabriel is 'The Strength of God'; and Raphael is 'God's Remedy.'"

He furthermore tells us, "Whenever some act of wondrous power must be performed, Michael is sent, so that his action and his name may make it clear that no one can do what God does by his superior power. So, also, our ancient foe desired in his pride to be like God, saying: *I will ascend into heaven; I will exalt my throne above the stars of heaven; I will be like the Most High.* He will be allowed to remain in power until the end of the world when he will be destroyed in the final punishment. Then, he will fight with Archangel Michael, as we are told by John: *A battle was fought with Michael the Archangel.*

So, too, Gabriel, who is called God's strength, was sent to Mary. He came to announce the One who would appear as a humble man to quell the cosmic powers. Thus, God's strength announced the coming of the Lord of the heavenly powers, mighty in battle.

Raphael means, as I have said, God's remedy, for when he touched Tobit's eyes to cure him, he banished the darkness of his blindness. Thus, since he comes to heal, he is rightly called God's remedy."

The term guardian angel is really the "name" of all the guardian angels; they need no further designation. We need to accept angels for what they are—servants of God. They perform their functions in his name—at times as intermediaries with us, but mostly to worship God— their primary function—and help us do the same.

If you have any questions about anything, please do not hesitate to call me at (978) 254-0560. If you prefer to email, please visit...

<https://theholyrood.org/email-fr-brian>.

Please keep me in your prayers.

From our Faith Formation Program Administrator Elaine Kindler

Freedom's Paradox

Rev. Sebastian White, O.P. is the Editor of 'Magnificat,' a monthly digest of daily readings for Morning Prayer, the Mass and Evening Prayer. This gem of a publication also includes daily meditations, prayers, texts of hymns, intermittent short articles and commentaries on select artwork. A special treat each month is a recognition of saints with similar devotions. This month, for example, 'Magnificat' includes several saints who promoted the Rosary. (I am forever grateful that my sponsor to RCIA recommended this publication for spiritual formation.)

Before a scripture text, Fr. White often makes a brief comment. This one grabbed my heart and mind well beyond the day's readings:

"The paradox of the Gospel is that we are set free from the chains of our own making by choosing to yoke ourselves to Christ, who bursts our bonds by his own Death and Resurrection."

Our culture tells us that to be truly free we need to set our own rules; we don't need to follow any given by anyone else, including God. This is the same trap Satan set for Eve and Adam (paraphrased) 'Surely you will not die if you eat the fruit of Good and Evil you will be like God!' All we do is dig a hole for ourselves deeper and deeper, getting no closer to freedom than we were when we chose to disobey.

I have learned the hard way that it isn't until I choose Jesus Christ and his way that I am truly free:

- Love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, mind and soul
- Love your neighbor as yourself (the Golden Rule)

Reconciliation is a sacrament that gives us freedom. As we constantly return to Jesus, we gain more freedom. Our mind and heart find it easier and easier to not even consider acting on desires or thoughts that would displease God. Somehow the saints learned to follow more faithfully than most of us do.

It is a paradox. We're raised to be the best we can be; to get ahead; win. In the sixties and seventies (yes, I'm that old) so many paradigms shifted that some of us actually began to believe the lies.

This doesn't lead us to love our neighbors as ourselves. More importantly, it doesn't lead us to love God with all our heart, mind and soul—unless influenced as we grow by parents, other family members, close friends, teachers, or indeed the Holy Spirit himself, to seek out true freedom.

Let's pray for each other that we seek the true freedom that's found in Christ more each day. Just imagine a Collaborative filled with "Free In Christ" people!

God bless you.

From our Permanent Deacon Deacon Frank Perez de Alderete

I walked into a store last week and where there had been lawn furniture and pool noodles, there now was a forest of twinkling artificial trees. Apparently, we're skipping right to Christmas, passing over Thanksgiving and all of fall. It seems that business time is not our time. Sometimes I feel like I'm being shoved through the year.

Then there's pumpkin spice. One day it just appears alongside the ice coffees, adding a little something to the mood. Then pumpkin spice appears in other places, leading us gently into the fall without the need for pushing and shoving.

It got me to thinking that something similar happens with the Liturgical calendar as with the secular calendar.

The Liturgical calendar leads us gently from one season to another. The cool thing about it is that the focus of the Liturgical calendar is the Paschal Mystery. We have two highlights to our year, Christmas and Easter, the very center of our faith: first the Incarnation, and then the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Our Lord. Each season has its own color, seen in our Liturgy, and its own cadence that guides us to the next moment, allowing us to enjoy the journey.

Between these peaks, we live in Ordinary time. During Ordinary time, we focus on the life of Jesus, exploring the scriptures in a three-year cycle. Each year, we focus on a different Gospel, giving us a gradually, repeating sequence of the Word, to allow us time to let it sink in and see something we didn't three years before. Ordinary time is marked by the color green.

This week, we're starting the 27th week of Ordinary time in cycle A, walking peacefully towards the season of Advent. To mark the transition, we celebrate the Feast of Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. Advent is a time of preparation and anticipation to celebrate the Incarnation at the Feast of the Nativity. Seasons of preparation are marked with the color purple, reflected in the vestments and the decor in the church. Advent ends with the Feast of the Nativity, the Incarnation of Our Lord. Seasons of great celebration are marked with the color white.

The Christmas season leads us naturally into the life and ministry of Jesus in the form of Ordinary time again, until we move into the season of preparation and penance we call Lent. Lent concludes with the shortest season of the year, the Triduum, lasting only three days beginning with Holy Thursday and ending with the vigil on Holy Saturday that opens the Easter season, the very apex of our year. We celebrate the Easter season for 50 days, culminating in the Feast of Pentecost. We then return to Ordinary time to continue our year until we come again to Advent and a new cycle.

The gentle progression of our year allows us to enjoy each season by reflecting on Our Lord. From his birth through to the Passion and Resurrection, the whole of the Paschal Mystery plays out every year. Can't you just smell the cinnamon, nutmeg, and allspice?

Knights of Columbus

upcoming events

Rosary Procession

Saturday, October 14 at 1 pm

The month of October is dedicated to the Most Holy Rosary. Join us as we honor Our Blessed Mother during this special month with a Rosary Procession.



We will gather in the St. Mary parking lot at 1 pm then proceed to the Gazebo, where we will prayerfully recite the rosary and sing Marian Hymns. **In the event of inclement weather, this event will take place inside St. Mary Church.**

This event is also a Deep Dive Event for our Faith Formation Families. If you will attending this as a Deep Dive, please remember to complete the reflection at the conclusion of the procession. It can be found at <https://theholyrood.org/dd-reflection>



Meet us in the St. Mary parking lot at 1 pm where we will walk in support of Life during Respect Life Month, which the Catholic Church celebrates every October. Our 2 mile route will

Sunday, October 15
Walk for Life in Support of

**Pregnancy
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both begin and conclude at St. Mary. Each walker is asked to make a donation of \$20 on the day of the walk. If writing a check, please make it **payable to KOC Council 9275 and note PCC Walk for Life on the memo line.** If you are unable to walk, but would still like to make a donation, you may drop it into the offertory basket, in an envelope marked "KOC Walk for Life."



Boston Archdiocese Culture of Life

All supporters of the Sanctity of Life from the moment of conception until natural death are invited to the Culture of Life Mass. Please attend with your family, friends and fellow parishioners to pray and show your support of life.

Sunday, October 29 at 11:30 am | Cathedral of The Holy Cross

1400 Washington Street | Boston

Cardinal Seán O'Malley, Msgr. Stephen Rossetti, Sr. Deidre Byrne, Ivan Dragicevic, Fr. Michael Lightner, Fr. Dan Reehil, Fr. John Anthony Boughton, Fr. Michael Della Penna, Nikki Kingsley, Artie Boyle, Colleen/John Willard, Ann Vucic and Rev. Augustus Succop III. Music by Anna Nuzzo and Mark Carey.

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Is God Calling You to Be a Deacon?

The Archdiocese of Boston is forming a new class of candidates for the diaconate. If you are interested in becoming an ordained deacon in the Archdiocese of Boston, you and your wife are invited to take part in the upcoming 2023 Inquirer Program. The program consists of the following three sessions:

Session I: Who is the Deacon and Am I One Who is Called?

Choose one of the following options:

- Monday, October 9th | 7 pm
Our Lady of Lourdes lower church, 439 West Street, Brockton MA
- Wednesday, October 11th | 6:30 pm
All Saints Church, 120 Bellevue Avenue, Haverhill
- Wednesday, October 11th | 7 pm
St. Martin de Porres Parish Office, 243 Neponset Avenue, Dorchester
- Tuesday, October 17th | 7 pm
Resurrection Church, 1057 Main Street, Hingham
- Thursday, October 19th | 7 pm
Good Shepherd Parish (St. Zepherin Church), 99 Main Street, Wayland
- Monday, October 23rd | 7 pm
St. Maria Goretti Church, 112 Chestnut Street, Lynnfield.
Church basement. Use side door
- Wednesday, October 25th | 7 pm
St. Michael's Church, 196 Main Street, North Andover
- Thursday, October 26th | 7 pm
St. Agnes Church, 51 Medford Street, Arlington
Downstairs in Hope Hall. Use side entry door on Chestnut Street.
- Online Session, Tuesday, October 24th | 7pm
If you are unable to attend any of the in-person sessions, we will be holding an online session. Please call the Permanent Diaconate Office at (617) 746-5843 for details.

Session II: Application Process, Canonical Questions for Applicants

Choose one of the two following sessions.

Wives are not required to attend this session.

This session will be held online. Please call the Permanent Diaconate Office at 617-746-5843 for details.

- Thursday, November 9th | 7-8:30 pm
- Thursday, November 30th | 7-8:30 pm

Session III: Discernment Day of Prayer

- Saturday, December 9th | 9 am – 1 pm | Lunch provided
Archdiocesan Pastoral Center, 66 Brooks Drive, Braintree

Those who are interested in the Diaconate are encouraged to attend all three events, and their wives are encouraged to attend Sessions I and III.

Please email the Permanent Diaconate Office at deacon_vocations@rcab.org to receive more information, or call the office at (617) 746-5843.

The next group to be admitted into formation will begin classes in September, 2024.

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, OCT 7	4:00 pm:	LIVING INTENTION: Charlene Muscato and Family Brian Muscato: Memorial Grace M Steed: Memorial Martin J Steed Sr: Memorial Mary Blanche Steed: Memorial
SUN, OCT 8	9:30 am:	Christine Iannuzzo Pierczynski: Memorial Rose Sullivan: Memorial Mauricio Valencia: Memorial
	6:00 pm:	People of the Parish
MON, OCT 9	9:00 am:	James Speiran: 27th Anniversary
WED, OCT 11	9:00 am:	Lucielle Fortier: Memorial
THU, OCT 12	9:00 am:	Presentacion Novales: 5th Anniversary
FRI, OCT 13	9:00 am:	Dorothy Simolaris: Birthday Memorial
SAT, OCT 14	4:00 pm:	People of the Parish
SUN, OCT 15	9:30 am:	George O'Brien: 13th Anniversary Dolores Perry: Memorial
	6:00 pm:	David MacPhail: 2nd Anniversary

St. Margaret of Scotland

SAT, OCT 7	4:00 pm:	Colleen M Bernardini: Memorial Thomas P Elias: Memorial Paul F Feeley: Memorial Frances Francoise: 1st Anniversary Claire Gauthier: Memorial Jean Krystof: Memorial Frank LaPan: Memorial Leo B Teague: 12th Anniversary
SUN, OCT 8	7:30 am:	People of the Parish
	10:00 am:	William J Kelly: 1st Anniversary William Malavich: Memorial
MON, OCT 9	8:00 am:	Jack Bomil: Memorial
TUE, OCT 10	8:00 am:	Anthony Picanso: 7th Anniversary
WED, OCT 11	8:00 am:	James F Speiran: 27th Anniversary
THU, OCT 12	8:00 am:	Rita Doherty: Memorial
FRI, OCT 13	8:00 am:	Nancy Picanso: Memorial
SAT, OCT 14	4:00 pm:	Charlotte Maillet: 29th Anniversary
SUN, OCT 15	7:30 am:	Fr Paul F Manning: Memorial
	10:00 am:	People of the Parish

St. Mary Parish

SAT, OCT 7	4:00 pm:	Donald Ayer: 1st Anniversary Roland Boisvert: 6th Anniversary David Dillon: 6th Anniversary Louise LaChance: Memorial Donna Leubbers: 6th Anniversary Alice Martin: 1st Anniversary John McGee: 3rd Anniversary Shirley St. Amand: 1st Anniversary
SUN, OCT 8	7:00 am:	People of the Parish
	11:00 am:	Donna Luebbers: 6th Anniversary Melissa Boyd: 11th Anniversary
TUE, OCT 10	7:00 am:	William T and Mary Ellen Hogan: Memorial
WED, OCT 11	7:00 am:	Deceased Members of LeVarn and Kelley Families
SAT, OCT 14	4:00 pm:	LIVING INTENTION: Healing for Jose Mario Vargas
SUN, OCT 15	7:00 am:	Joanne O'Neill: 10th Anniversary
	11:00 am:	People of the Parish

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.

St. Mary Altar Flowers

**Deceased Members of the
LeVarn and Kelley Families**



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.

St. Margaret Sanctuary Lamp

Laurie Quilan Birthday Remembrance

St. Margaret Blessed Mother Lamp
In Memory of Mary Geoffroy

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.

Helen and Nancy McCarthy

Recent Funerals



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

Ann Morrissey

Wednesday, October 4 • St. John

Steven Stamas

Wednesday, October 4 • St. Margaret

Michael Nickels

Friday, October 6 • St. John

Frances Brunelle

Friday, October 6 • St. Margaret

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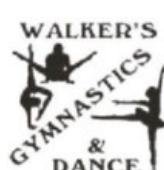
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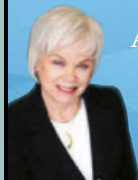
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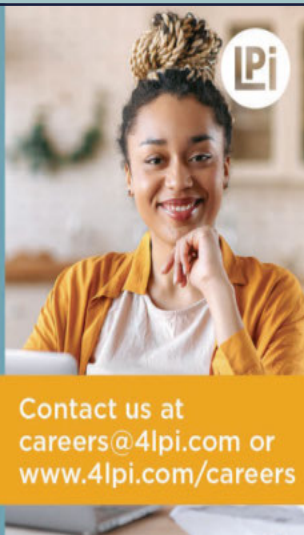
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