



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 22, 2023

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.”

-Matthew 22:21



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 23

Bible Study • 10 - 11:30 am • SM PC Conf Room 1
 Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3 pm • SJE Church and LIVEVIEW
 Confession • 4:30 - 5:30 pm • SJE Church
 SM 4 pm Choir Rehearsal • 7 - 8:30 pm • SM Hall
 Rosary • 7 pm • SM Church and LIVEVIEW or SM Marian Grotto (outdoors)

Tuesday, October 24

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
 Convalidation Information Night • 7 - 8 pm • SMS Sacred Heart Hall
 Tuesday Night Bible Study • 7 - 9 pm • SM PC Conf Room 1
 Rosary • 7 pm • SM Church and LIVEVIEW or SM Marian Grotto (outdoors)

Wednesday, October 25

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
 Faith Community Nursing Meeting • 6 - 8 pm • SM Hall
 Women's Book Club • 6:30 - 8 pm • SMS Sacred Heart Hall
 Rosary • 7 pm • SM Church and LIVEVIEW or SM Marian Grotto (outdoors)
 Troop 77 Scout Meeting • 7 - 8:30 pm • SM Hall

Thursday, October 26

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 • 7 pm • SM Church and LIVEVIEW or SM Marian Grotto (outdoors)
 SM 11 am Choir/Ensemble Rehearsal • 7:30 pm • SM Church

Friday, October 27

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
 Rosary • 7 pm • SM Church and LIVEVIEW or SM Marian Grotto (outdoors)

Saturday, October 28

Confessions • refer to cover
 SM Men's Group • 7:45 - 8:45 am • SM PC Conf Rm 1
 SJE Hospitality Meeting • 9:30 - 11 am • SJE Hall
 Hope and Healing Grief Support • 10:30 am - 12 pm • SJE OPC
 St. Mary Bell Choir • 2:30 - 3:30 pm • SM Choir Loft
 Meal of Thanksgiving • 5 - 7 pm • SMS Sacred Heart Hall

Sunday, October 29

Christmas Musical Rehearsal • 1 - 3 pm • SJE Hall
 Parents of Young Children Planning Mtg • 4 - 5:30 pm • SM Hall



ATTENTION St. Mary Mass GOERS

The St. Mary 11am Mass
NEXT SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29,
 will be extended in length as we
 welcome a child into our Catholic family
 through the Sacrament of Baptism.

We look forward to your prayerful
 presence being available to this family!

The St. Mary served Table Ministry

53 in October



Weekend Mass Attendance

Weekend Of October 14th/15th



| St. Mary | | |
|----------|------|-------|
| 4 pm | 7 am | 11 am |
| 157 | 120 | 224 |

| St. Margaret of Scotland | | |
|--------------------------|---------|-------|
| 4 pm | 7:30 am | 10 am |
| 100 | 63 | 140 |

| St. John the Evangelist | | | |
|-------------------------|---------|-------|------|
| 4 pm | 9:30 am | 12 pm | 6 pm |
| 152 | 207 | 50 | 121 |



What do birds give trick-or-treaters?

(answer on page 13)

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

Drew Jubinville

Alba Kuilan-Lamboy

Justin Leach

Paul Sneeringer

Lyle Wheeler

Lorraine Huard

Dawn King

Cathy Latina

Michele Manzelli

Ray Wagner

St. John Finance Council

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

Jeff Brown - Chair

John Bagni

Celeste Dunn

Paul Brzezinski

Grace Ann Steed

St. Margaret Finance Council

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

Robert Gilman - Chair

Thomas Kirwin

Marc Trudel

Betty McKiernan

St. Mary Finance Council

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

Lauren Desforge - Chair

Armand DiLando

Paul Therrien

Ted Powers

Paul Rigazio

here's what's happening in The Holy

9 days left and we are within reach of beating last years goal; especially with the month-end numbers that come in! Last year we prayed 1,364,637 Hail Mary's. Only 236,299 to tie! Can we do it? We believe our prayer warriors can!



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.

| OCT 9- OCT 15 | TOTAL-TO-DATE | %AGE OF GOAL |
|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| 51,137 | 1,128,338 | 112.83% |



While enjoying a bowl of warm apple crisp topped with creamy vanilla ice cream alongside a steamy—or chilled—cup of apple cider, you are invited to take a chance on a raffle basket (valued at \$300)!

Raffle tickets are \$1 per or 6 for \$5 and will be sold after St. John Masses THIS weekend, 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.



Meal of
Thanksgiving

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

LAST CALL to get tickets before this well-loved event takes place NEXT Saturday! Tickets are \$10 and are available to purchase in the Parish Offices. Stop by Monday - Friday, 10 am - 2 pm.

Questions? Contact either Lorraine Freitas at (978) 937-8657 or lorron2@comcast.net or Cathie Denomme at (978) 454-3213 or catdon4@gmail.com.



Holy Souls
Prayer Stroll

Join us as we
pray, in a unique
way, for those
who have gone
before us.

Saturday, November 4
9:30 - 11 am at St. Joseph Cemetery

RSVP REQUIRED:

- to sign up on line, visit... <https://bit.ly/3PKbNmn>
- no computer? contact Lynn at extension 240

Further details about the day will be sent to all those who have responded as the date approaches.



hope and healing adult grief support group

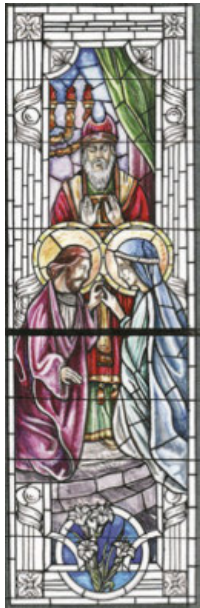
When someone close to you dies, everything changes in your family, in your life, and your dreams. Often this can turn your life upside down. Know you are not alone in your grief and loneliness. The Hope and Healing Adult Grief Support Group invites you to join us:

NEXT Saturday, October 28
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.

Rood Collaborative community

Join us for the final formal presentation, given by Fr. Brian and Fr. Fernando, **THIS Tuesday, October 24th... 7 pm | St. Margaret Sacred Heart Hall**



This presentation is NOT just for our parish families, but beyond! If you know of anyone who may be interested in learning more about having their civil marriage blessed, please invite them on behalf of Fr. Brian and Fr. Fernando!

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.

Questions? Contact...

Fr. Brian at (978) 254-0560 or Fr. 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.

ATTN Liturgical Ministers!



You are invited!
A Time for Prayer and Community
Facilitated by Fr. Brian

- **Saturday, November 4 at 10 am**
- **Monday, November 6 at 7 pm**

Both dates will be the same format and content.
Attend the one that best fits your schedule or both!

St. Margaret of Scotland Sacred Heart Hall and Chapel.

Are you a parent

of a child(ren) not yet school-aged and are interested in forming and/or being part of a group that would cater to both the social and faith needs of you and your child(ren)?

If yes, then Fr. Brian invites you to join him for an evening of discussion, brainstorming and pre-planning!

**NEXT Sunday, October 29
4 - 5:30 pm • St. Mary Parish Hall**

Help Fr. Brian further formulate and answer questions that need to be addressed in order to begin a group that fulfills the needs of parents of little ones. You know your child(ren) best... what do we need to do to make this a successful endeavor for our community? Some of the questions to consider:

- What is the best day/time to meet?
- How often should we meet?
- What would the format look like?
- What type of activities should be offered?
- What should we name this new group?

YOUR INPUT IS GREATLY NEEDED and APPRECIATED! So come with ANY AND ALL questions, suggestions and knowledge!



No sitter needed as children are welcome and...

PIZZA WILL BE SERVED!

If possible, please RSVP to Christine at (978) 256-4406 so we plan accordingly for space, beverages and food! **If you did NOT RSVP, and at the last minute decide to join us, please do!**



The 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the synod of bishops is underway! 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>

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

THIS WEEKEND'S SECOND COLLECTION

... will support Catholic World Missions. World Mission Sunday gathers support for the pastoral and evangelization programs and needs of more than 1,150 mission dioceses in Africa, Asia, the Pacific Islands, and remote regions of Latin America. The funds collected are distributed in the Pope's name by the Propagation of the Faith (www.propfaithboston.org). If you were unable to donate today, you can donate this coming week and drop in the mail, or into any of our secure black drop boxes. If making your donation via check, please make it payable to the parish in which you are registered and note 'World Mission Sunday' in the memo line. You may also make it via online giving (see below). Once you sign in/sign up, select 'World Mission Sunday' and enter your amount. You do not need to be a subscriber to take advantage of this option. Thank you for your support!

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 October 14th/15th | Fiscal Year-To-Date October 15th | Fiscal YTD Average/Week |
|---|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses | \$15,000* | \$240,000 | \$15,000 |
| Actual Received | \$11,660 | \$195,623 | \$12,226 |
| Shortfall/ Overage | -\$3,340 | -\$44,377 | -\$2,774 |

| ST. JOHN WEEKLY OFFERTORY | Weekend of October 14th/15th | Fiscal Year-To-Date October 15th | Fiscal YTD Average/Week |
|---|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses | \$10,300* | \$164,800 | \$10,300 |
| Actual Received | \$7,605 | \$134,859 | \$8,429 |
| Shortfall/ Overage | -\$2,695 | -\$29,941 | -\$1,871 |

| ST. MARGARET WEEKLY OFFERTORY | Weekend of October 14th/15th | Fiscal Year-To-Date October 15th | Fiscal YTD Average/Week |
|---|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses | \$4,800* | \$76,800 | \$4,800 |
| Actual Received | \$4,588 | \$66,702 | \$4,169 |
| Shortfall/ Overage | -\$212 | -\$10,098 | -\$631 |



Visit our website and click on the appropriate Parish online giving logo located at the bottom of the homepage.



Behind every Prayer Shawl is a person whom the Lord wants to bless. How blessed are we to be conduits of His divine love! The following are excerpts from thank you notes that we've received:

"Thank you for my beautiful Prayer Shawl, which I received at the Southern New Hampshire Medical Center yesterday, for the umpteenth time of being there. I'm a prayer warrior myself and I feel even more totally blessed, by having this beautiful Prayer Shawl around me when I pray."

"I am deeply appreciative of all you have bestowed upon me. I will pray for all of you as well."

"I am deeply touched by your thoughtful gift of this beautifully hand-crocheted lap robe."

"My son will be kept warm and safe beneath the covering of this prayer filled robe whenever we're out and about on these cool days. Thank you so much for thinking of my son and for the lovely blanket."

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

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

Or visit <https://theholyrood.org/request-a-prayer-shawl>

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

It's that time of year again!

Beginning on Saturday, November 4, there will be collection bins at each of our churches in which to place this year's donations that support the Lowell Transitional Living Center. These bins will remain in place until the following weekend, November 11/12.



Additionally, we are offering the option of dropping off your donation(s) via a drive-thru event that will be held on Saturday, November 11 in both the St. John and St. Mary parking lots between 8–11 am.

The Lowell Transitional Living Center—which has been blessed by your faithful generosity over the past many, many years—provides the most vulnerable adults in our community with services ranging from shelter, meals, transportation, and assessments/referrals to clinics that provide mental health and medical care.

As we conduct this collection, let us be reminded that small acts of kindness done with great love can change people's lives. Your donation, no matter how large or small, can make a real difference in someone's life.

Items that the LTLC is in need of are listed below:

ITEMS OF GREATEST NEED:

- **Men's and women's hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, winter jackets and foot warmers... winter is coming!**
- **Men's and women's sweatpants (all sizes)**
- **Twin-size blankets, sheets and pillowcases**
- **Bath towels and Shower Shoes (flip-flops)**
- **Hand sanitizer (individual size), anti-bacterial wipes and disinfecting sprays**

TOILETRIES

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| ● Q-tips | ● shampoo (travel size) | ● conditioner (travel size) | ● unscented soap |
| ● body wash | ● deodorants | ● face cloths | ● men's/women's razors |
| ● shaving cream | ● unscented lotion | ● combs/hair brushes | ● chapstick |
| ● hair ties/ head bands | ● finger nail clippers | | |

NEW CLOTHING

- | | | | |
|---------------------|----------------|---------------------|---------|
| ● women's underwear | ● men's boxers | ● men's undershirts | ● socks |
| ● plain t-shirts | ● leggings | ● shoelaces | |

GENTLY USED CLOTHING (clean, no stains, no rips, no odor)

- | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| ● light jackets | ● shoes/ sneakers | ● sweatshirts/hoodies |
|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------------|

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 2 SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22

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

*Parents
attend
last 30
minutes
of class*

CONFIRMATION II SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15

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

NOVEMBER DEEP DIVES

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



Holy Souls Prayer Stroll (RSVP)
Saturday, November 7 | 9:30 - 11 am
St. Joseph Cemetery, Chelmsford

Mass of Remembrance
Tuesday, November 14
7:00 - 8:00 pm
St. John Church

Mass of Remembrance
Tuesday, November 7
7:00 - 8:00 pm
St. Mary Church

Mass of Remembrance
Tuesday, November 21
7:00 - 8:00 pm
St. Margaret Church

Saints and Sacraments (RSVP)
Thursday, November 16 | 6:30 - 8 pm
St. Margaret Sacred Heart Hall



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, DELAWARE

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN



The Archdiocese of Boston requires ALL volunteers and paid employees aged 18 and over, regardless of the ministry in which they volunteer, to attend and complete a one-time "VIRTUS-Protecting God's Children" workshop. In order to assist our volunteers in fulfilling this requirement, we have scheduled two workshops here in the Collaborative:

Saturday, October 28

9 am – 12 pm • St. Mary Parish Hall
REGISTER BY OCTOBER 18

Saturday, November 18

1 – 4 pm • St. Mary Parish Hall
REGISTER BY NOVEMBER 8

For directions on how to register, please visit
<https://theholyrood.org/protecting-gods-children>

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 on the weekend of December 2nd/3rd 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!

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 THIS WEDNESDAY, 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)



The sacraments are often truly misunderstood as things that *we* do. Many people consider them as rites of passage as we move through life. The central truth of the sacraments is not discovered in what *we* do; they are *not* about us. Rather, the sacraments are centered in the living God who is calling us to experience the compassionate mercy He desires to bestow on us. A good analogy for coming to understand the sacraments may well be in how a house is built. The stages of building a home can help us break down our Catholic understanding of this wondrous God-given gift. Ultimately, we will come to see the sacraments as the house that God has built for us.

The first step in building a home is to create a foundation. What then is the foundation for understanding the sacraments? We dig the hole for the foundation by asking the question—where do the sacraments come from? Through the actions of Christ, God and God alone instituted the sacraments. Therefore, as Catholics, we need to understand and believe that the sacraments are not of human design. Their power comes from God through Jesus Christ. There are many discussions about how Christ may have gone about instituting the sacraments, but they all place the power to do so solely in Christ, who is the ultimate lawgiver where the sacraments are concerned. This leads us to ask then, what are the sacraments and what is their purpose?

The Council of Trent came up with the definitive number of sacraments—seven. The seven are: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Penance, Anointing of the Sick, Marriage, and Holy Orders. The purpose of the sacraments is found in Christ's earthly ministry: both in his preaching and in his actions. We know why Christ came: "God sent his only Son *not* to condemn us, but to save us." Everything Christ did was directed to our salvation—specifically his death and resurrection. Christ, 'the way of salvation,' came to show us the way *to* salvation. And the sacraments are the instruments He bequeathed to us in order for us to experience the salvation He won for us. We recognize that God's saving actions—through the unique historical reality of Christ—remain truly available to us *not* simply through remembering them but through the sacraments themselves. God's grace and mercy enable us to place our faith in what Christ has done for us, and to *truly* experience what

He has done. Salvation in Christ remains an ongoing concern; we will never be forgotten or forsaken by our God. In the sacraments, we experience the reality of God's grace and saving mercy through our encounter with Christ in and through the power of the Paschal Mystery (Jesus' death, resurrection, ascension, and its consummation in Pentecost). The sacraments, then, lead us to be a community that is centered in Christ. The sacraments define the purpose of this community—to live out our lives as a people saved in Christ, in order to proclaim that salvation to the world.

Now that we have our foundation, the next stage is to build the framing. The question that comes to mind at this point is—how do the sacraments work? Augustine called the sacraments "a visible sign of an invisible grace." What he is getting at is that God uses creation to reveal his presence and his grace. Hence, God communicates to us through human means so that we can recognize his bounty. The sacraments are a particular way that God communicates his intentions to us. In Baptism, we discover his desire to be in a renewed relationship with us, and in the Eucharist, his desire to share his very life with us. Water is understood as a cleansing agent and therefore, through baptism, we come to be cleansed and are now capable of a real relationship with the Father through our relationship with Christ empowered by the Holy Spirit. In the Eucharist, as we share a meal, we come to share our very lives with the One who calls us to the meal. God uses common, created works such as water, bread, wine, and oil, and endows them with new meaning. This new meaning speaks to God's intentions, and through God's action we receive grace to live out our lives with God more fully. Each of the sacraments, in their own way and based on their particular purpose, will help us to encounter the Paschal Mystery. This encounter is intended to strengthen us to live out our lives more fully in Christ.

Next week, as we put on the external walls of our home, we will continue to look at the sacraments as the house God has built for us.

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 Director of Faith Formation

Heather Hannaway

Saints in Our Lives

Who are the saints in our lives? They are those people who have tried to live the commandment Jesus gave us on Holy Thursday night, "Love one another as I have loved you." Think of those whose love for us has shaped our lives. Think of those who gave of themselves to us and to others in love. They lived their lives perfecting, gradually, how to love as Jesus loves. And though their bodies wore out and died, they continue to live and love us. Death does not sever the bonds of love we have with those who have died. They are no longer hampered by a body, but love more intensely than when they had a body.

I love how the Latino culture celebrates the feast days of All Saints and All Souls. They keep the memory of their deceased loved ones alive by celebrating their lives, picnicking at their grave sites, building a special altar with the pictures of their loved ones, cooking their favorite foods, having their favorite drinks, and remembering their favorite pastimes. They never forget their loved ones because they believe their loved ones are always present. We should honor and celebrate our deceased loved ones. After all, the day of their death is the day of their birth into everlasting life. We need to tell and retell the stories, especially those that were important to us. We need to keep their pictures around us and remember them when we gather with family and friends.

I grew up picnicking at the grave sites of my relatives. My sisters and I loved to walk to the cemetery to visit our deceased relatives and leave them bunches of wildflowers we'd pick along the way. I felt a connection and consolation when I was with them. We would say prayers for them when we arrived and before we left, and promised to visit again soon. To this day, I love to walk through cemeteries and read the inscriptions of the souls resting there, and imagine who they were, who they loved, and who loved them, and then offer a quiet prayer for the repose of their souls. My granddaughter has taken up my quirky affinity for holy souls, and every year she slowly starts to assemble a family altar to honor our deceased loved ones.

Last week she added to her altar a porcelain cat my mom gave to her and a picture of my husband's mom. Her great-grandmothers were the first to be honored this year. As the weeks get closer to All Saints and All Souls, more memorabilia will quietly be added. She knows the importance and reverence with which we need to remember and honor those who have gone before us. I hear it in her whispered prayers for them and am humbled by the power in which she loves with such fidelity.

When I leave this life and am born into the next, I hope to see all those holy souls welcoming me home to heaven. Till that time, I will keep holy their feast days, the day of their death and birth into heaven. We will light candles and offer prayers in memory of them at our banquet table here on earth, till we can join them around the banquet table of God promised to us by Jesus.

From our Sr. Priest in Residence

Fr. Arnold Colletti

Humility

Humility is being lowly in mind before God, and not proud before men, and esteeming others better than ourselves, and not depreciating others in order to exalt ourselves.

"Humility does not mean a submissiveness, a passiveness, a willingness to be walked on, or a desire to live in the doghouse. Humility is a virtue by which we recognize ourselves as we really are, not as we would like to be in the eyes of the public; not as our press notices say we are, but as we are in the sight of God when we examine our conscience.

- Fulton Sheen

In both the Old and New Testaments, the Bible says that true humility is essential for establishing a right relationship with God and other people. Humility is also necessary for maintaining a proper perception of ourselves.

Saint Paul wrote, "Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. But each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. (Philippians 2:3-11).

Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven." (Matthew 18:3-4).

True humility means seeing ourselves as God sees us with all the worth and worthiness that he ascribes to us. When we submit to God and give him the first place in our lives as our supreme authority and are willing to serve one another, then we live our true selves.

Knights of Columbus

upcoming events

Following Pope Francis' directive that Cardinal O'Malley to be present in the Vatican for the entire month of the Synod, the Culture of Life Mass has been rescheduled from Sunday, October 29 to December 17.

Boston Archdiocese Culture of Life Mass

Sunday, December 17 at 11:30 am | Cathedral of The Holy Cross

1400 Washington Street | Boston



enter
to
win

The Knights are holding a raffle fundraiser in which there are four prizes to be won by a single winning ticket holder!

- Advent Candle Holder with Nativity Scene
- Advent Calendar
- Christmas Rosary
- 26" x 9" LED Bethlehem Scene made of Balsam Wood

Tickets are \$10 per and can be purchased by contacting Deputy Grand Knight Paul Sidari at (868) 729-1677 or Grand Knight Bob Malati at (968) 501-4903. The drawing will be held on November 25. You need not be present to win.

Archdiocesan happenings

Boston Marian CONFERENCE

October 28-29 | Boston Marriott Quincy Hotel

This weekend will include dynamic FAITH-FILLED speakers whose powerful talks and weekend conference events may make a difference in your life! Mass, Adoration, Confession, Healing Services and a Music Ministry that will lift your soul!



Entire Weekend Event is \$160

meals & hotel are separate.
seating is limited.

scan the QR code or visit
bostonmarianconference.org.

If you are aged 30-60, and feel you may be being called to the priesthood, join the Pope St. John XXIII seminary community either virtually or in person.



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November 3 OR December 1

- Prayer and Fellowship
- Holy Hour and Evening Prayer

**FIRST
FRIDAY
VISITS**

If attending in-person, you will dine with the seminarians and a tour of the Seminary. For more information or to RSVP, please contact Msgr William Fay at (781) 899-5500, ext 134 or msgr.fay@psjs.edu



The Project Rachel Ministry extends a special invitation to women suffering from the pain of a past abortion to attend a one-day retreat.

Come to the Waters of Healing

Saturday, November 11 | 9 am - 5 pm (location is confidential)

There is a limit of 10 participants per retreat so reserve your spot today!
Call (508) 651-3100 or email help@projectrachelboston.com.

PLEASE LEAVE IT AS YOU FOUND IT...

Please note that the room set-ups at each of our properties are extremely specific to a scheduled event. If you should make 'unofficial' use of any room, and in the process move any furniture, we ask that you please return it to the same set-up it was as when you entered. When a group who has reserved the room shows up to an incorrect set-up, it takes time away from their gathering to put it back in the needed order. We thank you for your cooperation. If you require the use of a room, we ask that you reserve use of it by visiting <https://theholyrood.org/reserve-a-room>.



**facilities
update**

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

If you come across any issues with any of our facilities, please reach out to Chris. If you choose to email, please write FACILITIES ISSUE in the subject line.

Across all our campuses, we are addressing seasonal landscaping work—primarily leaf removal. We have also started to run the necessary wiring for the door hardware that will be required for our new card readers (information to follow soon). Please read on to learn about church-specific facility projects:

St. Mary • We have begun the installation of the long-awaited doors. As of the writing of this, we have installed 4 of the 10 doors due to be replaced. • We continue to address the damage that the flooding has created, and to find a long-term solution to avoid this from happening in the future.

St. Margaret of Scotland

• We continue to look at options to upgrade the sink in the hall in order to better fit the need of parishioners and events. • Repairs to the sound system have been made following issues with the lector mic. • The water heater in the Sacred Heart Hall is being upgraded. This is scheduled to be completed by this coming week • Minor electrical repairs have been made to outdated switches in both the upstairs and downstairs sacristy's.

St. John the Evangelist

• We continue with the necessary work needed to be completed in the OPC storage closet in order to be able to return it to its intended use. • Due to some structural issues, we have begun work on the supports of the breezeway that connects the OPC and the Parish Offices. • We were recently gifted railings that have been installed in the church as you approach the altar, allowing for an easier and safer passage.

BIBLE STUDY

The North Chelmsford Community Bible Study welcomes residents—from any Christian denomination or from none at all—in or around North Chelmsford to read and discuss Scripture together.

We will meet from 7:30 - 9 pm on the last Wednesday of each month, **beginning THIS Wednesday, October 25.**

North Town Hall
31 Princeton St, North Chelmsford

Our opening meeting will discuss the first two chapters of Saint Paul's Letter to the Philippians, one of the most hopeful books of Scripture.

Bring your own Bible or borrow one from us!

Questions?

email St. John Parishioner Tristan Macdonald
at tkmacdon@gmail.com.



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!



answers:tweet

Happy Halloween



Remembering A Loved One

Below are a number of ways in which you can give remembrance and honor to a loved one or personal intention. To schedule any of these intentions, please contact the Parish Offices at (978) 256-2374. **Please note that the scheduling of your intention requires a 2-week notice**, and that your intention will appear in the bulletin.



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 21 | 4:00 pm: | John Patrick Curran: Memorial |
| SUN, OCT 22 | 9:30 am: | People of the Parish |
| | 6:00 pm: | Nathalie Haran: Memorial |
| MON, OCT 23 | 9:00 am: | Alvaro Giorgi: Memorial |
| TUE, OCT 24 | 9:00 am: | LIVING INTENTION: 100th Birthday Blessing for Claire Bonneau |
| WED, OCT 25 | 9:00 am: | John Welch II: Memorial |
| THU, OCT 26 | 9:00 am: | Steven D'Amelio: 4th Anniversary |
| FRI, OCT 27 | 9:00 am: | For Those Whose Funerals were Celebrated at St. John's this Past Month |
| SAT, OCT 28 | 4:00 pm: | Walter Rowe: 21st Anniversary |
| SUN, OCT 29 | 9:30 am: | Joanie LeGrand: 1st Anniversary |
| | 6:00 pm: | People of the Parish |

St. Margaret of Scotland

| | | |
|--------------------|-----------|---|
| SAT, OCT 21 | 4:00 pm: | People of the Parish |
| SUN, OCT 22 | 7:30 am: | Joseph Higgins: Memorial |
| | 10:00 am: | Thomas F Ralls: Birthday Memorial |
| MON, OCT 23 | 8:00 am: | Virginia Gattenby: 1st Anniversary |
| WED, OCT 25 | 8:00 am: | Vincent Latham: Memorial |
| FRI, OCT 27 | 8:00 am: | For Those Whose Funerals were Celebrated at St. Margaret's this Past Month |
| SAT, OCT 28 | 4:00 pm: | George L Judge: 6th Anniversary |
| SUN, OCT 29 | 7:30 am: | People of the Parish |
| | 10:00 am: | Frank and Anthony Nobrega: Memorial |

St. Mary Parish

| | | |
|--------------------|-----------|---|
| SAT, OCT 21 | 4:00 pm: | For all those who have no one to pray for them |
| SUN, OCT 22 | 7:00 am: | Gerald P Cole Sr: 17th Anniversary |
| | 11:00 am: | Dianne DiLando: 13th Anniversary |
| MON, OCT 23 | 7:00 am: | Gail Salwa: Memorial |
| TUE, OCT 24 | 7:00 am: | People of the Parish |
| THU, OCT 26 | 7:00 am: | Ardella Goguen: 4th Anniversary |
| FRI, OCT 27 | 7:00 am: | For Those Whose Funerals were Celebrated at St. Mary's this Past Month |
| SAT, OCT 28 | 4:00 pm: | Russell S Knower: 17th Anniversary |
| SUN, OCT 29 | 7:00 am: | People of the Parish |
| | 11:00 am: | Christopher L Gambon, Norma M Gambon, and Michael Mokrzycki: Memorial |

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.

St. Mary Altar Flowers
In Memory Of Nathalie Haran



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 Sacred Heart Lamp
George R Finneral

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.' We invite you to dedicate the Ringing of the Bells in Memory/In Honor of someone.

In Memory of Virginia Gattenby

Recent Funerals

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



Vincent Daly

Tuesday, October 17 • St. Mary

Lorraine Rygiel

Wednesday, October 18 • St. Mary

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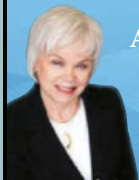
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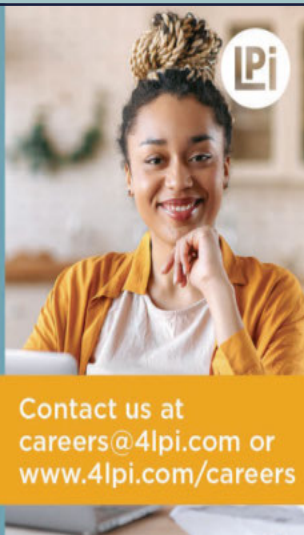
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