



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

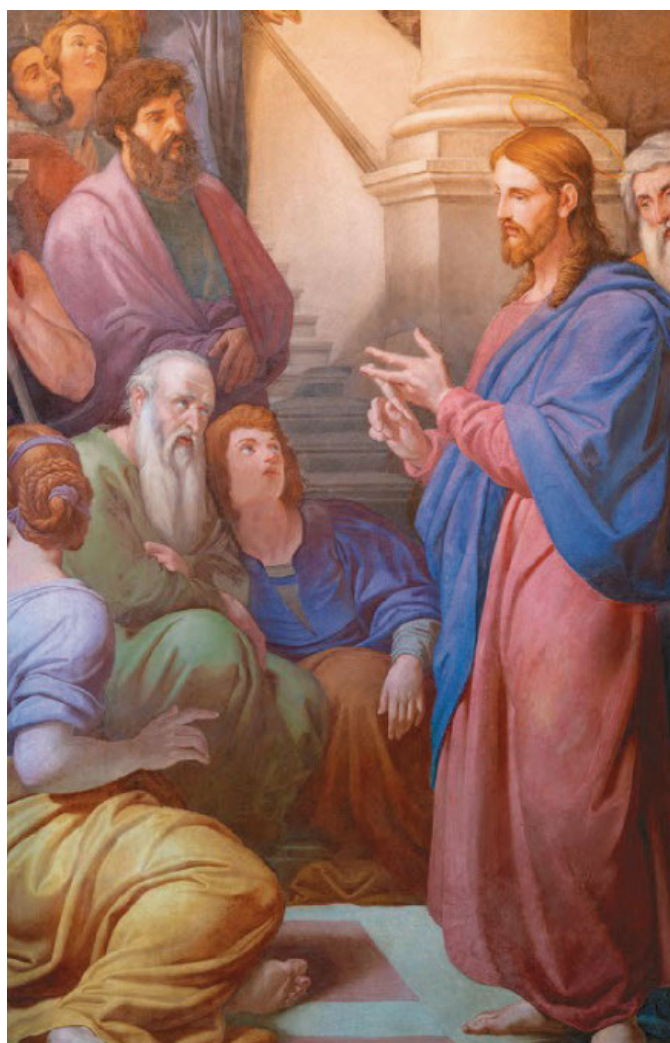


November 5, 2023

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

“The greatest among you must be your servant. Whoever exalts himself will be humbled; but whoever humbles himself will be exalted.”

-Matthew 23:11-12



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, November 6

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
 Liturgical Ministers Prayer & Fellowship • 7 pm • SMS Hall/Chapel
 Rosary • 7 pm • SM Church and LIVEVIEW

Tuesday, November 7

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
 SM Annual Mass of Remembrance • 7 pm • SM Church
 Tuesday Night Bible Study • 7 - 9 pm • SM PC Conf Room 1
 Rosary • 7 pm • SM Church and LIVEVIEW

Wednesday, November 8

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

Thursday, November 9

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
 SM 11 am Choir/Ensemble Rehearsal • 7:30 pm • SM Church

Friday, November 10

* PARISH OFFICES CLOSED: VETERAN'S DAY *
 Knitting and Crocheting • 2 - 4 pm • SM Hall
 Trivia Night • 7 pm • SMS Sacred Heart Hall
 Life in the Spirit Seminar • 7 - 9 pm • SJE Hall

Saturday, November 11

Confessions • refer to cover
 St. Mary Men's Group • 7:45 - 8:45 am • SM PC Conf Room 1
 LTLC Drive-Thru Collection • 8 - 11 am • SM and SJE Parking Lots
 St. Mary Bell Choir • 2:30 - 3:30 pm • SM Choir Loft

Sunday, November 12

Christmas Musical Rehearsal • 1 - 3 pm • SJE Hall

upcoming PARISH OFFICE CLOSURES

Due to our monthly Staff Meeting, the parish offices will be closed between the hours of 2 and 3:30 pm on Monday, November 6. There will be someone available to answer the phone.

OFFICE
Closed
 for
STAFF MEETING

The parish offices will also be closed THIS Friday, November 10th in honor of Veteran's Day.



O Lord,
 who art ever merciful and bounteous with Thy gifts, look down upon the suffering souls in purgatory. Remember not their offenses and negligence's, but be mindful of Thy loving mercy, which is from all eternity.

-Amen

Weekend Mass Attendance

Weekend Of October 28th/29th



St. Mary		
4 pm	7 am	11 am
141	120	269

St. Margaret of Scotland		
4 pm	7:30 am	10 am
121	61	150

St. John the Evangelist			
4 pm	9:30 am	12 pm	6 pm
132	226	37	125



why shouldn't you
 tell a secret in a
 cornfield?

(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

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

Diana Patel

Betty McKiernan

Marc Trudel

St. Mary Finance Council

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

Lauren Desforge - Chair

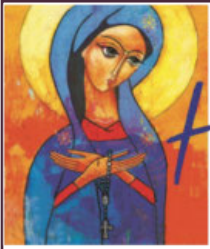
Armand DiLando

Paul Therrien

Ted Powers

Paul Rigazio

here's what's happening in The Holy



Sixth Annual

Hail Mary challenge

We will publish the final number of Hail Mary's Prayed in next weekend's bulletin. We kindly ask that you report your final counts in NO LATER than THIS Monday, November 6th via email to psidari@ymail.com or call into Christine at (978) 254-4406.

UPDATE & THANK YOU



ESTATE PLANNING

presented by
Atty. Annmarie Roark



**ROARK &
MANSUR**
LAW, PLLC

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who attended the recent Estate Planning Presentations. Between both sessions—October 1st and 3rd—close to 100 people attended, and over half of those completed the survey that we asked be completed. In answer to the question of what you'd like to see in future presentations, a number of you indicated that you'd like to learn more about Respite for Caregivers and Palliative/Hospice Care.

It is our hope and desire to bring these events to you at a future date. Stay tuned...

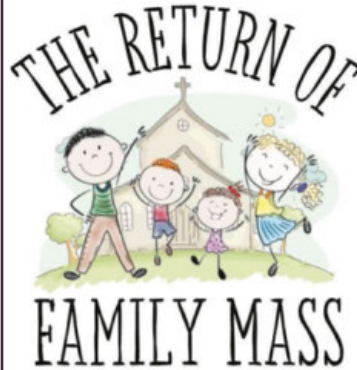
-Faith Community Nursing Ministry



Interested in joining our ministry? Have questions about what exactly that means?

Contact Charlene at (978) 649-6583 or at Charlene.muscato@gmail.com.

Beginning THIS Weekend, the Family Mass returns!



This Mass will be celebrated once a month at each of our churches.

What exactly does this mean? It means that at this particular Mass, the children will be invited up to the Sanctuary and hear the homily in a way that speaks to them!

This is a great way for us to connect with our families, and for our families to connect with each other! Consider continuing the conversation on your way home after Mass!

The monthly schedule is as follows...

First Sunday: St. Margaret of Scotland 10 am Mass

Second Sunday: St. John the Evangelist 9:30 am Mass

Third Sunday: St. Mary 11 am Mass

MASS OF REMEMBRANCE

and the importance of our participation



Praying for the dead and comforting those who mourn is one of the Spiritual Works of Mercy. As parishioners of our three parish communities, we are encouraged to attend these celebrations in which we are gifted with the awesome opportunity to gather and pray for those who have been buried from our Churches, and afforded the opportunity to show our care to their family and friends.

Our presence and participation witnesses to the credibility of our belief that life is everlasting and builds a stronger faith community as we become participants in the ministry of bereavement.

We welcome and encourage ALL to gather and celebrate at our Masses of Remembrance.

All three Masses are on Tuesday evenings at 7 pm:

- November 7 at St. Mary
- November 14 at St. John the Evangelist
- November 21 at St. Margaret of Scotland

Rood Collaborative community



trivia night

fellowship committee

THIS FRIDAY November 10 at 7 pm

St. Margaret Sacred Heart Hall

Form a team of 8, or come by yourself and join up with others! For questions or to RSVP, contact Lorraine at (978) 937-8657 or lorryn2@comcast.net.

Collection bins are now in place at each of our churches into which you can place your donations in support of the Lowell Transitional Living Center. These bins will remain in place until next weekend, November 11/12.



If you prefer, you can drop off your donation via our drive-thru event that will be held **NEXT Saturday, November 11** in both St. John and St. Mary parking lots between the hours of 8–11 am.

ITEMS OF GREATEST NEED:

- Men's and women's sweatpants (all sizes)
- Men's and women's hats, gloves, mittens, scarves
- Men's and Women's winter jackets and feet warmers
- 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 |
|-----------------|-------------------|

Book of the Names of the Dead

During the month of November, we are called in a special way to remember *"our brothers and sisters who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection"* (Eucharistic Prayer II).

A Book of the Dead is available in each of our churches for parishioners to inscribe the names of their beloved dead. The people named in these books will be offered up in prayer at each Mass throughout the month of November. The books are located as follows:

St. Mary

Front of the church near the Vigil Candles

St. Margaret of Scotland

Front of the church near the Baptismal Font

St. John the Evangelist

Front of the church near the Baptismal Font

Share A Photo with Us...



A 'memory board' will be displayed in the entrance of **St. John Church**. During this month, as we remember and pray for our beloved dead, we invite you to post a photo of your loved one(s) on this board. If you wish to have the photo returned, please write your name and phone number on the back of the photo.

ATTN Liturgical Ministers!



You are invited!

A Time for Prayer and Fellowship

Facilitated by Fr. Brian

If you missed this Saturday's gathering, please join us...

THIS Monday, November 6th at 7 pm

St. Margaret of Scotland

Sacred Heart Hall and OLL Chapel

RSVP at <https://theholyrood.org/liturgical-ministers>

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

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

Grade 1
 Saints,
 Our Family in Heaven!

Grade 2
 Class...
 Our Choices Matter
 Free Will, Temptation and Sin
 At Home...
 Follow Blessed First
 Reconciliation Parent Guide

Grade 3-6
 Baptism
 Children remain in hall
 Parents separate into
 Discipleship Groups

Grade 7&8
 Altaration Session 2
 "Our Father's Plan"
At least one parent must attend this class session.

Confirmation I
 Chosen Lesson 3
 "What's Your Story, God?"

Confirmation II
 Chosen Lesson 12
 "Who is the Holy Spirit?"
 Chosen Lesson 17
 "Who's Calling?"
 Prayer: Seasonal Prayers

GRADE 1 SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5	GRADE 2 SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19
9:15 - 10:45 AM St. Mary Hall	9:15 - 10:45 AM St. Mary Hall
<i>Parents Attend last 30 Minutes of Class</i>	

NOVEMBER CLASS SCHEDULE

GRADE 3-6 | SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12 | PARENTS IN DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

SESSION A	SESSION B	SESSION A
9:15 - 10:45 AM St. Mary Hall	12:15 - 1:45 PM St. Mary Hall	10:45 AM - 12:15 AM St. John Hall

**GRADE 7&8
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5**
 11:15 AM - 12:45 PM
 St. Margaret Hall

CONFIRMATION I SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12	CONFIRMATION II SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5 & 19
4:15 - 5:45 PM St. John Hall	4:15 - 5:45 PM St. John Hall

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

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



NOVEMBER DEEP DIVES

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

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.



VIRTUS® 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. We are holding a workshop:

Saturday, November 18

1 – 4 pm • St. Mary Parish Hall

REGISTER BY THIS WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 8

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



BAPTISM

We joyfully welcome the following children into

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

BAPTIZED AT ST. MARY

Robert John Burns
 Nathaniel Thomas Dix
 Phillip Dennis Hogan
 Bridget Quinlan Kelly
 Lena Diane Lamir
 Julia Leach
 Jack Carter Muldoon
 Connor Mason Pugliano
 Camden David Tomlinson

BAPTIZED AT ST. MARGARET

Aiden Garcia
 Amelia Rose Gibson
 Georgia Grace Gibson
 Daniel David Weissman
 Michael Kenneth Weissman

BAPTIZED AT ST. JOHN

Brooke Alyce Giroux
 Madeleine Mendez Ortiz

Knights of Columbus

upcoming events

The Knights will be selling Christmas Cards following all Masses at each of our churches on the weekend of November 11th/12th to promote Christ and the Holy Family as the central figures during the Christmas season.



Questions?

Contact James Barrows at (603) 860-0075.

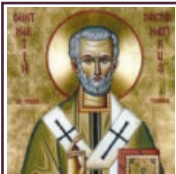
Additionally, the Knights will be holding a membership drive at St. John's this same weekend. When you join the Knights, you will find that membership brings Catholic men together in a powerful way. If you would like to join today, simply visit KofC.org/joinus and enter our council #9275 for local information!



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 w/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 Paul Sidari at (868) 729-1677 or Bob Malati at (968) 501-4903. The drawing will be held on November 25. You need not be present to win.



Lord, if Your people need me, I will not refuse the work. Your will be done.

- St. Martin of Tours
 Feast Day: November 11



answer: because the corn has ears



Treats, no Tricks



Our Faith Formation Program is looking to collect individually wrapped—**NUT FREE**—Halloween candy, whether it be leftovers from your treat bag, or a new purchase in the after-season clearance sales.

All candy can be left in the marked containers that will be located in all of our churches. Please drop off your candy donations no later than Wednesday, November 15th.

Donation Bins can be found at...

- **St. John the Evangelist:** NPC front lobby desk
- **St. Mary:** under the table in the parish hall
- **St. Margaret of Scotland:** under the tables at the front entrance

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 October 28th/29th	Fiscal Year-To-Date October 29th	Fiscal YTD Average/Week
Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses	\$15,000*	\$270,000	\$15,000
Actual Received	\$12,196	\$220,555	\$12,253
Shortfall/ Overage	-\$2,804	-\$49,445	-\$2,747

ST. JOHN WEEKLY OFFERTORY	Weekend of October 28th/29th	Fiscal Year-To-Date October 29th	Fiscal YTD Average/Week
Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses	\$10,300*	\$185,400	\$10,300
Actual Received	\$7,737	\$151,419	\$8,412
Shortfall/ Overage	-\$2,563	-\$33,981	-\$1,888

ST. MARGARET WEEKLY OFFERTORY	Weekend of October 28th/29th	Fiscal Year-To-Date October 29th	Fiscal YTD Average/Week
Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses	\$4,800*	\$86,400	\$4,800
Actual Received	\$4,289	\$74,941	\$4,163
Shortfall/ Overage	-\$511	-\$11,459	-\$637

SECOND COLLECTION	St. Mary	St. John	St. Margaret
World Mission Sunday (October 22)	\$2,455	\$1,799	\$1,579



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.

The Night Jesus Went Missing

Several years ago, when I was at another parish, a young woman came to the rectory door. She was very upset, almost in tears. She had gone over to the chapel adjacent to the church, which had 24 hours perpetual adoration, and was distraught to find that the tabernacle was missing!

At first, we thought that someone had gained access to the chapel and taken the tabernacle. One of the priests made a phone call to the business manager asking if there was an explanation for the disappearance. She did have an explanation. The tabernacle had been moved to another room because the carpets in the chapel were being cleaned. There was no theft, everything was fine.

But during that moment of uncertainty, I felt a combination of emotions, fear, anger, emptiness. Yet as I reflected, those emotions made perfect sense. What that young woman was reacting to, what the priest and I were reacting to wasn't the fear of having lost a thing or an object, but the fear of having lost a PERSON—our Lord Jesus.

A tabernacle—as beautiful as it is—is simply an object made of metal which can be replaced. It is, in the end, simply a thing. But that which the tabernacle holds is an inexhaustible treasure—the person of Jesus Christ—Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. At every Mass we celebrate that at the Last Supper, Jesus left us His very self. Not a memorial, not a symbol, but His very person.

More than anything else, the Eucharistic Lord wants a relationship with us, person-to-person. And the intimacy of that relationship is meant to be felt especially when we receive Him under the appearance of bread and wine. The challenge for each of us is to value this gift. It can be easy to feel distant from our Lord, to receive communion mechanically and out of habit. The next time you receive communion, allow it to be an opportunity to rekindle your love and devotion to our Eucharistic Lord. Receive Him not as a thing, but as a person—a person who sacrificed His very life to have a relationship with you!

The Lord gave us this enduring sacrament because He wants to feed us, nourish us, and grow closer to each one of us. But we must have our eyes, hearts, and minds open to receive Him.

Consider spending time with Him in Adoration. It starts at Mass with the celebration of the living action of the Eucharist, then overflows in the devotion of adoration. Adoring Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament takes no special skill—just a willingness to spend time with Him.

If you feel overwhelmed, sad, or discouraged; if things are not right in your life; then DON'T hesitate, don't think twice, just go! You will have an encounter with the living Lord that CAN change your life.

-Heather Hannaway, Director of Faith Formation



Bringing about a Revival of a Misunderstood Prayer Practice

With the Liturgical Season of Advent right around the corner—beginning Sunday, December 3rd—we thought it the PERFECT time to reignite a passion and longing for this often misunderstood and under-appreciated prayer practice.

Whether we are aware of it or not, our souls long for their creator. We have a thirst that can only be truly quenched by our God. We have a longing and a desire for peace that can only be obtained through Him who IS peace.

For those of you new to this practice, you may find it difficult at first to sit in silence. We are so used to the incessant noise that surrounds us daily. But hang in there... you will soon find that the quiet is exactly what you need to carry with you into the world, to rely on, and to share. Plus, we have some prayer guides at each of our adoration sites to assist you. We promise... in time, you will come to love your “alone time” with the Lord.

You can see from the below schedule that there are numerous opportunities to take part in Eucharistic Adoration across our three churches. He longs for and patiently awaits for us to come and sit quietly with Him.

St. Margaret of Scotland OLL Chapel

374 Stevens Street Lowell

- every Wednesday (Sept - June) | 9 am - 3 pm

St. Mary Parish Center Chapel

33 North Road, Chelmsford

- Thursdays | 3:00 - 9:00 pm

St. Mary Church

25 North Road, Chelmsford

- every third Sunday (sep - jun) | 3:30 - 4:30 pm
- acoustic music to assist in worship and silent prayer

St. John the Evangelist OPC Chapel

115 Middlesex Street, North Chelmsford

- First Friday of every month | 9 am - 3 pm

St. John the Evangelist Church

115 Middlesex Street, North Chelmsford

- First Friday of the month (oct - may) | 7 - 8 pm
- acoustic music to assist in worship and silent prayer



ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST PARISH #138 FY 23 END-OF-YEAR FINANCIAL SUMMARY

We must acknowledge the faithful support of our parishioners during this past fiscal year. We realize many parishioners may have financial pressures and burdens on their households. Please keep these families in your prayers as we do. Again, we give thanks to all you have done to support your parish and look forward to a prosperous year. Should you have questions or concerns about the finance reports, please know that we are hear to respond. You may contact Fr. Brian Mahoney, Jeff Brown or Paul Firicano.

During FYE 2023, which is the time period of July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023, the Parish had the following income and expenses:

<u>Income</u>	
Offertory	457,628
Grand Annual	58,351
Contributions/Gifts	47,166
Catholic Appeal rebate	8,264
Bingo Proceeds	88,776
Other income	<u>130,675</u>
Total Income	<u>790,860</u>
<u>Expenses</u>	
Compensation and benefits:	
Clergy	51,367
Staff	<u>349,941</u>
Total	401,308
Operating expenses	330,352
Bingo expenses	41,920
Central Ministry Tithe	<u>55,457</u>
Total Expenses	<u>829,037</u>
Deficit	<u><u>-38,177</u></u>

Please note, our Offertory fell short by over \$57,000 for the fiscal year. Conversely, due to the generosity of the parishioners, we surpassed our Catholic Appeal goal and thus received a rebate of \$8,264. Additionally, Bingo was very successful and brought a net amount to the parish budget of \$46,856.

In addition to our offering, our parishioners contributed \$47,740 to the various special collections, such as: Christmas (\$10,896), Easter (\$8,307), Pentecost-Seminary (\$2,252), Retired Sisters (\$3,144), Turkey/Syria Relief special collection (\$3,698), and others.

Respectfully submitted:

Fr. Brian Mahoney, Pastor and Paul Firicano, Collaborative Business Manager
Parish Finance Council Members: Jeff Brown (chair), John Bagni, Paul Brzezinski, Celeste Dunn, Grace Ann Steed

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST PARISH #138 FYE 24 PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET



Below please find the fiscal year 2024 proposed operating budget. The fiscal year time period is from July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024. Should you have any questions or concerns about the finance reports, please know that we are here to respond. You may contact Fr. Brian Mahoney, Jeff Brown, or Paul Firicano.

	FYE 2023	FYE 2024
<u>Income</u>	<u>Actuals</u>	<u>Proposed Budget</u>
Offertory	457,628	535,600
Grand Annual	58,351	70,000
Contributions/Gifts	47,166	27,000
Catholic Appeal rebate	8,264	5,000
Bingo Proceeds	88,776	81,600
Other income	130,675	116,300
Total income	790,860	835,500
<u>Expenses</u>		
Compensation and benefits:		
Clergy & Staff	401,308	419,000
Operating expenses	330,352	347,450
Bingo expenses	41,920	38,800
Central Ministry Tithe	55,457	55,450
Total expenses	829,037	860,700
Total Net Income/-Deficit	-38,177	-25,200

SUMMARY

As you can see, the Offertory is the primary source of our income and is needed to sustain our parish and its ministries. Our proposed Offertory will remain at \$10,300/week. Please consider increasing your offering if you are able. The 2024 Grand Annual campaign will be mailed out in early November. Please prayerfully consider your gift as it is also extremely helpful to our operating budget.

WeShare online giving is always available to make all your donations. This is a very convenient and secure option and helps the parish with cash flow. Please visit our website, www.theholyrood.org, to make your one-time donation or to create an account. For those unable to attend Mass and for whom WeShare online giving is not an option, please consider dropping off your donation at one of the secure drop boxes located outside the parish office here at St. John's. These locked boxes are emptied daily by staff.

Expenses are budgeted with some expected increases in items such as health insurance and property insurance. Our clergy and staff work extremely hard to ensure that we only spend what is truly necessary for the work of our community. We currently have a full staff and are blessed to have three full-time priests within our collaborative, thus the increase in lay compensation and clergy & related expenses. We thank you for your continued, consistent generosity and please know that you and your families are in our prayers.

Respectfully submitted:

Fr. Brian Mahoney, Pastor and Paul Firicano, Collaborative Business Manager
Parish Finance Council Members: Jeff Brown (chair), John Bagni, Paul Brzezinski, Celeste Dunn, Grace Ann Steed



Two weeks ago we began looking at how God builds us a home through the sacraments. We laid the foundation—that all the sacraments come from God and they open us to experience the Paschal Mystery (Jesus' death,

resurrection, ascension, and its consummation in Pentecost). We then framed our house which led us to recognize that God uses the very elements of creation to speak to us through the sacraments.

Last week we saw the exterior walls go up and the roof put on. We learned that God bestows on us his great gift of grace through using the sacraments as his instrument. But we must be properly disposed to receive that grace for it to impact our lives. Also, in some of the sacraments we receive a change to our soul, called a character; we are marked for all eternity through this gift. We ended by looking at our role both as minister and participants of the sacraments. The role of the minister is simply to be an instrument of Christ who is the true minister of all the sacraments. Christ works through the minister in order for his ministry to be seen.

Now that we have put the roof on, we can look at the plumbing and electrical work. What does that entail? We know what the gifts of the sacraments are and our role in the sacraments, but that raises the question, what exactly do we experience in the sacraments? The heart of the sacraments is, of course, to help us live out the salvation Christ won for us in the Paschal Mystery. The sacraments help us to do that because through them we encounter the divine. God uses the sacraments to really engage with his people; in its own way, each sacrament reveals God and makes Him present to us. God makes this possible by allowing us to actually experience the Paschal Mystery. As we celebrate the sacraments, we do not *simply* remember Jesus' death, resurrection, and ascension: God makes it possible for us to encounter these events, and we come to experience God's compassion, mercy, and unconditional love. In this moment, then, the very presence of Christ is made real to us. As Christ and the Paschal Mystery are our salvation, we come to better understand what our life is truly about.

As we seek to live out a life as a people saved in Christ, we might wonder—how do the sacraments help us do that? In a way, the sacraments act as windows and doors to the Paschal Mystery. Each sacrament helps us to experience something about the Paschal Mystery that is unique and purposeful, to help us grow in our lives with Christ. For example, when we sin (post-baptism) we need a remedy that will help us

back to living our relationship with God. Confession is not about making us look bad—we are *all* sinners. We are all in need of God's healing grace. The sacrament of Penance is about helping us encounter God's mercy, compassion, and unconditional love. We come to Him contrite for what we have done. As Jesus acts through the ministry of the priest and we confess our sins, He heals us. He, and not the priest, forgives our sins and pours out on us his fruits of the Paschal Mystery which is God's forgiveness. We are washed clean by his blood and now we can start our lives anew. Penance is a doorway to experiencing God's mercy and unconditional love, reminding us that no matter what we do our God will never forsake or abandon us. The Eucharist feeds and nourishes us to help us stay on the road to salvation. In the Eucharist, it is *not* something, but *someone* we encounter—JESUS CHRIST! The Eucharist is a doorway to Christ's continuing presence in our lives. He feeds and nourishes us in order to strengthen us to stay faithful to Him.

The sacraments, then, open a window to teach us about the life we are called to live, and also to give us the strength to live that life. As we encounter God's grace in multiple ways through the sacraments, they become the true source of helping us see what life is truly about. The world lies to us about the reality of life. Christ shows us through the sacraments how life is intended to be ordered and lived. It is about a life that is truly centered in Christ and in Christ alone. Only when we focus on Christ can we truly understand how to be in relationship with others. Only when we get this right can we grow as human beings. The sacraments are, again, not about what *we* are doing but about what *God* is doing for us. We are called through the sacraments to cooperate with and participate in Christ's saving works. A heart truly open to God will discover—in the only way possible—what it means to be truly human.

Our ultimate understanding of the sacraments, then, comes down to this: they are God's gracious gift to us. This gift is intended for one purpose: to encourage and strengthen us through God's grace to live as a people saved in Jesus Christ. Our God loves us so much that He will communicate his grace and mercy through whatever means available so that we can recognize fully his presence in our lives. God has truly built us an amazing home!

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 Asst Dir of Faith Formation

Courtney Callanan

"What's she singing?" my mother asks. I lean over and listen for a moment before replying with a chuckle. "She's singing about dragons." Lest anyone think little ones are never paying attention at church, the imagery in Revelations (1st Reading on the Feast of the Assumption) had prompted a sing-song-y refrain from my 2½ year-old niece of "Dragons, dragons, dragons..."

Since that day I have found myself wondering on occasion, "What does she know of dragons?" Chances are very little, her media consumption being limited to begin with and consisting entirely of Daniel Tiger and Blue-y, neither of which so far as I am aware features dragons. Nor do I think they appear particularly often, in her many, *many* books. Still I like to think that at this tender young age, her familiarity with actual dragons (in so far as mythical creatures can be literal) outpaces her awareness of what dragons have symbolized in art and literature for centuries: violence motivated by hatred and greed. I cannot help but mourn the day when such innocence will be lost, a day that is inevitable, not because anyone will have intentionally taught her this but simply because she lives in a fallen world.

When that day comes I hope she will find strength and comfort in the things that she will have been intentionally taught. That, yes, there may be evil in the world, but there is good too and good in the end will be the victor. Returning to dragons for a moment, G.K. Chesterton summed up this idea beautifully when he wrote, "Fairy tales do not tell children that dragons exist. Children already know dragons exist. Fairy tales tell children that dragons can be defeated." No doubt Chesterton, a devout Christian, would have pointed out that the greatest story of all, the story of salvation in Christ Jesus, has much the same effect with the added power of being true.

In fact there is growing evidence that having the hope and surety faith provides is one of the strongest protections we can offer our children against the dragons of today's world. Erica Komisar LCSW, a clinical social worker, psychoanalyst, and parent guidance expert, lays this out boldly in her article for the Wall Street Journal *Don't Believe in God? Lie to Your Children*. To quote the article:

A 2018 study in the American Journal of Epidemiology examined how being raised in a family with religious or spiritual beliefs affects mental health. Harvard researchers had examined religious involvement within a longitudinal data set of approximately 5,000 people, with controls for socio-demographic characteristics and maternal health. The result? Children or teens who reported attending a religious service at least once per week scored higher on psychological well-being measurements and had lower risks of mental illness. Weekly attendance was associated with higher rates of volunteering, a sense of mission, forgiveness, and lower probabilities of drug use and early sexual initiation.

Obviously we know that there are other reasons to believe in and teach your children about God, ones of an eternal nature. However, I think it is important to know that in addition to offering our children Heaven in the next life by bringing them up in the faith, we can also make them less afraid of dragons in this one.

From our Parochial Vicar

Fr. Patrick Alemayo, C.S.Sp.

Driving was one of the activities I loved doing in the initial years of passing my driving test and securing my driver's license. With over twenty years of driving experience (only thirteen of them recognized in the US due to my inability to show my first driver's license from Nigeria), I see many patient drivers as well as some impatient drivers. They remind me that patience at all times while driving is one of the ways of practicing humility and Christian charity.

Jesus, in the Gospel, teaches us humility and service when he says, **"The greatest among you must be your servant. Whoever exalts himself will be humbled; but whoever humbles himself will be exalted."** Whenever we learn humility and offer loving service to other people, we are living out our practical Christian life in discipleship of Christ. Humility is very important for our spiritual growth because it helps us to love our neighbors in a deeply Christ-like way and opens the door of our lives to more of God's grace. Whenever we want to practice humility, God gives us patience, peace, and gentleness alongside. The fruits of the Holy Spirit grow in the soil of humility. Humility is key to growing in holiness.

Christian service is one of the noble goals of true religion. When religion is all about keeping the letters of the law, it ends up with the burden of religious legalism that is devoid of love. An act of Christian service offers us the opportunity to serve others, modeling the attitude of Jesus in God's creation without thinking of its reward. Today, Christian service is lacking because people's livelihoods are modeled around economy, and those who sacrifice their lives and time in Christian service are seen as wasting precious time. Nevertheless, services for the sake of Christ's kingdom are geared towards building up the body of Christ and making our world a more loving, joyful, secure, and peaceful place.

We are therefore called to holiness, greatness, and heroic witnessing to Christ through humility and service. Like the psalmist in Psalm 131:1-3, let us denounce pride and arrogance by praying, "O Lord, my heart is not proud, my eyes are not haughty; I do not concern myself with great matters or things too wonderful for me. But I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with its mother; my soul is like the weaned child that is with me. O Israel, hope in the Lord from this time on and forevermore." Finally, we need to renew our commitments to God and God's people. Like St. Paul in the letter to the Thessalonians, let us be determined to share with others not only the gospel of God, but our very selves as well in Christian service.



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, NOV 4	4:00 pm:	Richard F Brady: Month's Mind Alan Leao Sr: Month's Mind David Shipko: Memorial
SUN, NOV 5	9:30 am:	Cecilia Barrett: 1st Anniversary Mauricio Valencia: Memorial
	6:00 pm:	People of the Parish
MON, NOV 6	9:00 am:	Collaborative Members of the Spiritual Society and Sanctuary Fund
TUE, NOV 7	9:00 am:	Valerie Ouellette: Memorial
WED, NOV 8	9:00 am:	Lucille Fortier: 3rd Anniversary
THU, NOV 9	9:00 am:	LIVING INTENTION: Gavis Monteyero
SAT, NOV 11	4:00 pm:	People of the Parish
SUN, NOV 12	9:30 am:	Anne Iannuzzo: Memorial
	6:00 pm:	For All Those who have No One to Pray for them

St. Margaret of Scotland

SAT, NOV 4	4:00 pm:	Jack Kelley: Memorial Pauline Mary Letourneau: Memorial Dan and Grace Moynihan: Memorial
SUN, NOV 5	7:30 am:	People of the Parish
	10:00 am:	John J Caron: Memorial Marc Descoteaux: Memorial Thomas F Murphy Jr: 1st Anniversary Thomas F Murphy Sr: Memorial
MON, NOV 6	8:00 am:	Jack Bomil: Memorial
TUE, NOV 7	8:00 am:	Frances Franciose: Memorial
THU, NOV 9	8:00 am:	Vincent Latham: Memorial
FRI, NOV 10	8:00 am:	Kathleen Regan: 20th Anniversary
SAT, NOV 11	4:00 pm:	Ann M Langan: Memorial
SUN, NOV 12	7:30 am:	Rita Doherty: Memorial
	10:00 am:	People of the Parish

St. Mary Parish

SAT, NOV 4	4:00 pm:	Martin and Norah Brady Family: Memorial Andrew and Ellen Gambon Family: Memorial Mary Haggerty: Memorial Louise LaChance: Memorial Alice Martin: 1st Anniversary Ann McManus: Memorial Ruth and John O'Regan: Memorial
SUN, NOV 5	7:00 am:	People of the Parish
	11:00 am:	Jim and Connie Hanley: 70th Wedding Anniv Memorial Katherine M Horne-Day: Memorial Nee Family: Memorial Josephine R Russo: Memorial Carolyn Temmallo: Memorial Walsh Family: Memorial
THU, NOV 9	7:00 am:	Matthew Turco: 3rd Anniversary
FRI, NOV 10	7:00 am:	Frank and Evelyn Soracco: Memorial
SAT, NOV 11	4:00 pm:	Charles Guthy: Memorial
SUN, NOV 12	7:00 am:	Marion Hickey: 1st Anniversary
	11:00 am:	People of the Parish

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.

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. Margaret Altar Flowers

In Memory of Maryanne Gorski



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 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
Martha Joan Barrett**

Recent Funerals

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



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Saturday, November 4 • St. Mary

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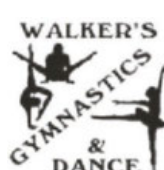
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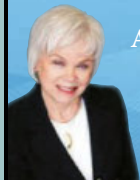
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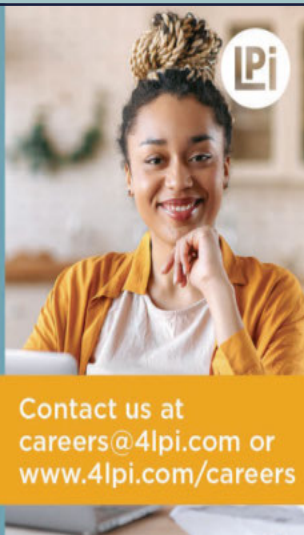
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