



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



December 17, 2023

Third Sunday of Advent

John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie."

- John 1: 26-27



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 at St. John OPC Adoration Chapel
2:00 - 10:00 pm; following Saturday 6:00 - 8:00 am
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, December 18

Confession • 4:30 - 5:30 pm • SJE Church
 Rosary • 7 pm • SM Church and LIVEVIEW
 SM 4 pm Christmas Choir Rehearsal • 7 - 8:30 pm • SM Hall

Tuesday, December 19

Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3 pm • SJE Church and LIVEVIEW
 Confession • 4:30 - 5:30 pm • SMS Church
 Rosary • 7 pm • SM Church and LIVEVIEW

Wednesday, December 20

Adoration • 9 am - 3 pm • SMS Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel
 Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3 pm • SJE Church and LIVEVIEW
 Confession • 4:30 - 5:30 pm • SM Church
 SM Youth Choir Rehearsal • 4:45 - 5:45 pm • SM Hall
 Confession • 6:30 - 8 pm • SM Church
 Rosary • 7 pm • SM Church and LIVEVIEW
 Troop 77 Scout Meeting • 7 - 8:30 pm • SM Hall

Thursday, December 21

Charismatic Prayer Group • 10 am - 12 pm • SJE OPC
 Adoration • 12 - 9 pm • SM PC Adoration Chapel
 Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3 pm • SJE Church and LIVEVIEW
 Rosary • 7 pm • SM Church and LIVEVIEW

Friday, December 22

** Parish Offices close at 12:30 pm **
 Youth Christmas Choir Rehearsal • 4:30 - 5:30 pm • SJE Church

Saturday, December 23

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

Sunday, December 24



Christmas Eve Mass Schedule

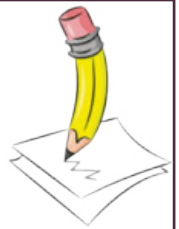
St. Mary Church: 4 pm and 6 pm
 St. Margaret of Scotland: 4 pm
 St. John the Evangelist: 4 pm and 10 pm

Monday, December 25

Christmas Day Mass Schedule

St. Mary Church: 7 am and 11 am
 St. Margaret of Scotland: 7:30 am and 10 am
 St. John the Evangelist: 9:30 am and 12 noon (African Liturgy)

IMPORTANT TO NOTE



The Fourth Sunday of Advent falls on Christmas Eve this year, therefore we are obligated to attend both the Fourth Sunday of Advent AND Christmas Masses.

The Fourth Sunday of Advent Masses will be celebrated as usual (see below schedule) with the exception of the Sunday 6 pm Mass at St. John's, which will NOT be celebrated as this time will be considered Christmas Eve.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT MASSES

Saturday, December 23rd

- 4 pm at ALL churches

Sunday, December 24th

- 7 and 11 am at St. Mary
- 7:30 and 10 am at St. Margaret
- 9:30 am and 12 noon at St. John

The Christmas/Christmas Eve Mass Schedule can be found in the calendar to the left.

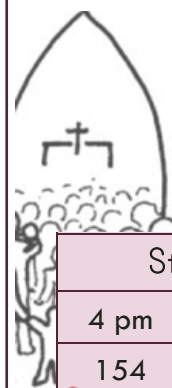
Weekend Mass Attendance

Weekend Of December 2nd/3rd

St. Mary		
4 pm	7 am	11 am
188	121	274

St. Margaret of Scotland		
4 pm	7:30 am	10 am
87	55	165

St. John the Evangelist			
4 pm	9:30 am	12 pm	6 pm
154	285	44	134



What do sheep say at Christmas?

(answer on page 5)

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

BONNIE BAIRD, HOLY ROOD

a Christmas Cantata performed by
The Holy Rood Adult Choir

An excellent way
to contemplate on the
coming of the Christ Child
at Christmas!

3 pm

THIS Sunday, December 17

St. Margaret
of Scotland Church
in-person or LIVEVIEW



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE PICK UP

Each winter, Chelmsford Boy Scout Troop 70 provides a Christmas tree collection service in the town of Chelmsford. For a \$10-\$20 donation, they will pick up and recycle your tree. It is important to leave the donation in an envelope taped to your front door after 8 am on the day of pickup.

The pick-up dates are as follows:

- Saturday, December 30th
- Sunday, December 31st
- Saturday, January 6th
- Sunday, January 7th

To make the required reservation for them to pick up your tree, visit www.troopseventy.com. You will receive an e-mail confirming your request.

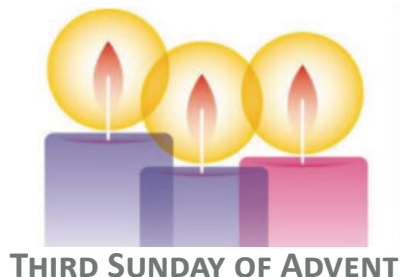
Questions?

email xmastrees@troopseventy.com.



Merrimack Valley Ringers
St. Mary Church

Saturday, December 16 • 7 pm
join us in-person or via LIVEVIEW



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Joy
Sunday

AN EXCITING ANNOUNCEMENT!



NATIONAL FEDERATION FOR
CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY

The Holy Rood Collaborative is among 43 parishes invited to participate in five cohorts for its grant-funded initiative, the Accompaniment Project.

Each cohort of parishes will work with an NFCYM-appointed coach to train an Accompaniment Steering Committee who will lead the work of the project for a period of three years. In that time, the parish leaders hope to educate the adults in their communities on what it means to accompany young people in faith as well as to provide them with the practical skills they need to do so. In this effort, these parishes will be testing a new model of ministering with young people which focuses on developing a community of faith companions for the youth.

To read the official press release and learn more about the Accompaniment Project, visit <https://nfcym.org/nfcym-accompaniment-project-announces-forty-three-partner-parishes/>

Rood Collaborative community



Because Fr. Brian is still 'out of commission,' the December presentation on the Eucharist will be postponed to May, 2024 and then Holy Orders and Marriage will be presented together in April.

The updated schedule can be found below...

Each evening will begin at 7 pm at St. Mary Church. You are welcome to attend in person or you can watch via LIVEVIEW. The complete schedule is as follows:

December 11: CANCELLED

January 22: Confirmation

February 12: Reconciliation

March 11: Anointing of the Sick

April 22: Holy Orders and Marriage

May 6: Eucharist

Please note that the LIVEVIEW Rosary will be cancelled on the evenings that these presentations are scheduled.

Due to the upcoming Christmas Holiday, the Parish Offices will close at 12:30 this Friday, December 22nd, and remain closed through Tuesday, December 26th.



MINISTRY OF PRAYER

Baptized into the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we become members of the family of God, the Church. Belonging to this family calls us to live together as brothers and sisters in a community of faith that witnesses to the Love that transforms and supports us as we journey to our eternal dwelling place to live forever in the presence of our Triune God.

As a family of believers, we are committed to love and care for one another. Here in the three parishes of The Holy Rood Collaborative this commitment impels us to pray for one another—to place our needs, our pleas for help, our expressions of praise and gratitude before our loving and merciful God and to seek the promises of healing, comfort, and peace that God provides.

The prayer intentions and intercessions we place before our God come from the prayer requests of families in our Faith Formation program, our Collaborative Prayer Line, our Rosary and Chaplet groups, and from prayers we know that we and our fellow parishioners hold in our hearts. This is a shared Ministry of Prayer.

To keep this Ministry of Prayer more intentionally in our minds and hearts, a prayer of intercession has been added to the Prayers of the Faithful that we offer as a community of faith each week at our celebration of Mass—our Eucharistic celebration.

Bishop Ruocco Council 9275

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



Diaper Drive

Thank you to EVERYONE who donated to the recent Diaper Drive that supported The Pregnancy Care Center. A whopping total of 5,000 diapers were collected!

Donations are always welcome to support our causes. Visit us at www.knights9275.com.

The Knights wish to extend their heartfelt

thanks to the parishioners of the Holy Rood Collaborative, whose charitable donations to this year's Tootsie Roll Drive helped our Council to raise \$7,221 to support people with intellectual and physical disabilities.



answer: Merry Christmas to Ewe!



Support our Parishes

with an IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) before December 31, 2023

People who are 72 or older and have traditional IRAs may use them to make charitable gifts in 2023. Both convenient and tax-advantaged, a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) from an IRA allows a donor to direct pre-tax assets to charitable organizations, like St. Mary's, St. John's or St. Margaret's, without incurring any tax. The QCD is not recognized as income, so donors receive a tax benefit and could possibly decrease the amount of your taxable social security benefits. Gifts of any amount, up to a maximum of \$100,000 per IRA plan owner per calendar year, may be made this way.

As we need to keep the finances separate, when making a gift, please be sure to indicate to which parish—St. Mary, St. Margaret of Scotland or St. John the Evangelist—you would like your gift processed.

Your generosity will help our parishes to continue building the programs and ministries for the present and future growth of our faith communities. Please feel free to contact your financial advisor for additional information about using your IRA to make a gift to your parish.

Due to early bulletin submittals because Christmas Holiday, below please find the offertory for the weekend of November 25th/26th. The offertory for the weekend of December 2nd/3rd offertory will be reported in next week's bulletin!

ST. MARY WEEKLY OFFERTORY	Weekend of November 25th/26th	Fiscal Year-To-Date November 26th	Fiscal YTD Average/Week
Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses	\$14,500	\$319,000	\$14,500
Actual Received	\$13,854	\$276,168	\$12,553
Shortfall/ Overage	-\$646	-\$42,832	-\$1,947
ST. JOHN WEEKLY OFFERTORY	Weekend of November 25th/26th	Fiscal Year-To-Date November 26th	Fiscal YTD Average/Week
Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses	\$10,300	\$226,600	\$10,300
Actual Received	\$7,754	\$185,304	\$8,423
Shortfall/ Overage	-\$2,546	-\$41,296	-\$1,877
ST. MARGARET WEEKLY OFFERTORY	Weekend of November 25th/26th	Fiscal Year-To-Date November 26th	Fiscal YTD Average/Week
Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses	\$4,800	\$105,600	\$4,800
Actual Received	\$3,142	\$93,177	\$4,235
Shortfall/ Overage	-\$1,658	-\$12,423	-\$565
SECOND COLLECTION	St. Mary	St. John	St. Margaret
Retired Religious Sisters (November 19)	\$5,225	\$2,330	\$3,730

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, MA • 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

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

Grade 1
 St. Nicholas,
 Advent and Christmas!
*parents must attend
 last 30 minutes of class*

Grade 2
 Class...
 Preparing our Hearts
 to Receive Jesus
*At least one parent must attend this
 class session*
 At Home...
 Continue Blessed First
 Reconciliation Parent Guide

Grade 3-6
 Families remain together in
 the hall to learn about
 the Eucharist

Grade 7&8
 Altaration Session 3
 "The Mystery Revealed"

Confirmation I
 Prayer: Prayer Personalities
 Chosen Lesson 4
 "How do I know God
 is Real?"

Confirmation II
 Chosen Lesson 8
 "How do I Get There?"

DECEMBER CLASS SCHEDULE

GRADE 2
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

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

CONFIRMATION I
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

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

DECEMBER DEEP DIVES

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

Advent Posadas (RSVP*)
 Saturday, December 16
 5 - 7 pm | St. Mary Parish Center

MV Ringers Concert
 Saturday, December 16
 7 pm at St. Mary Church

Christmas Cantata
 Sunday, December 17
 3 - 4 pm | St. Margaret Church

Crossover Night
 Sunday, December 31
 10 pm | St. John Church



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.

THANK
you

Thank you to all of you who have donated to this fund! We still have some families in need of assistance, so if you have not yet had the chance to donate, and would like to, we would love to hear from you!

Visit us at...
<https://theholyrood.org/tuition-angels>



People have told me that I am a pretty optimistic person, and I know that to be true. I believe that no matter what the situation, there is always something positive to be found. When I had my recent motorcycle

accident, I did not look at what was wrong—the loss of the motorcycle or my broken leg. Rather, I gave praise to God, even in the midst of all that was happening, for simply being with me. He gave me strength to persevere and to recognize the good that was in my life. I was able to give praise and thanksgiving to God for no other reason than his being God.

We are a people truly blessed because we have faith in Jesus Christ. There is so much that is going wrong in the world, and quite frankly that has always been true, but with the eyes of faith we can see beyond the world as it is. In faith we have the faculty, if we use it, to see the world as it can be—as God intends it to be.

This weekend we light the pink candle on the Advent wreath as a reminder that Christmas is coming soon. It reminds us *not* simply of the past coming of Christ but also that He is coming again. It gives us hope to rejoice. Think of a sunrise. The colors of the sky start off somewhat dark and then slowly turn to purple, and as the sun comes closer to rising the purples give way to pink, and eventually the sun rises and gives us light. Jesus is the Light! But why do we believe that Jesus came or that He is coming again? Simply put, we believe this with the eyes of faith: we see the world as it is but know that Jesus is still with us.

The Holy Spirit dwells in all baptized Christians, and so they are temples of the Lord. The power of the Spirit makes Christ present within us. That is why at the start of Mass we greet each other with: “The Lord be with you.” “And with your spirit.” The Christ in the priest is greeting the Christ in all who are gathered at the celebration. We hear Christ again as He uses others at Mass to proclaim his word. Christ is present in each of his sacraments but most powerfully in the Eucharist which is Christ himself. Christ promised never to leave or abandon us and we have come to rejoice in his “hidden” presence. It is that presence that helps us know that Jesus is with us—He, who was born, lived, preached, was crucified, died, rose from the dead and ascended into heaven, is with

us. And we await with hope and joyful expectation for that same Christ to come again.

We do not need to live as a people of fear. Instead, we recognize that we are simply waiting for the sunrise to complete. And while we wait, our God is with us. Jesus walks with us. And we show that hope by being a people who live a life of rejoicing. As the scriptures tell us, “Rejoicing in the Lord must be your strength.” It is easy to lose focus. It is easy to allow the brokenness of the world to become our focus. When that happens, then it is hard to see the potential of the world. It is hard to find a reason to hope. It is hard to rejoice. We are like Peter walking on the water. As long as he stayed focused on Christ, he could walk on the water. But as soon as his focus became the storm and the waves, he lost true perspective and began to drown. He then turned to Christ who was with him the whole time and cried out for help. Jesus then lifted him up. As Christians we must remember that no matter how big the storm or how large the waves, Christ will always be there to lift us up.

As we await the coming of Christ with hope and rejoicing, we do it *not* as a people abandoned by Jesus until He returns. Rather, we are a people who trust in God’s promises. “Can a mother forget her infant, be without tenderness for the child of her womb? Even should she forget, I will never forget you.” Jesus will never forget us. He will never forsake us. He will always be with us. We are a people who await the rising sun with faith that it will come as promised. Advent is a simple reminder of our faith, of our hope, and why we rejoice.

People may ask us why we are a people of joy and hope, and we should have a ready answer. As Saint Peter wrote to us, “Simply reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that is in you.” (1 Pet. 3:15). The reason for our hope is simple. It is Jesus.

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

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

Please keep me in your prayers.

From our Faith Formation Program Administrator

Elaine Kindler

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

There is an ancient custom to pray the seven "O Antiphons" from December 17th to the 23rd, one each day. And, yes, these are represented in the verses of the Advent hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."

In case you don't already have a source for them, here they are. Enjoy. And, rejoice!

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O Sapientia (Wisdom)

O come, O Wisdom from on high,
Who orderest all things mightily,
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go.

O Adonai (Lord)

O come, O come, thou Lord of Might,
Who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
In ancient times didst give the law
In cloud and majesty and awe.

O Radix Jesse (Root of Jesse)

O come, O Rod of Jesse,
free Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell they people save,
And give them victory o'er the grave.

O Clavis David (Key of David)

O come, O Key of David, come,
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.

O Oriens (Dayspring)

O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.

O Rex Gentium (King of Nations)

O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind.
Bid thou are sad divisions cease
And be thyself our Prince of Peace.

O Emmanuel (God-With-Us)

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel;
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.

Let's pray for each other that we may rejoice every day that Emmanuel is with us, now and always. Let our joy be contagious and spread to others. God bless you.

From our Permanent Deacon

Dcn Frank Perez de Alderete

This is the third week of Advent, but I'm not writing this article in the third week, I'm actually writing it several weeks before. Back in June, I found out my son and his wife were expecting. At that time, the baby was a hazy picture on an ultrasound, a tiny new member of the family. The due date was around Thanksgiving, which is when I'm writing this. We've gone from a hazy image to a very obvious pregnancy, complete with episodes of samba dance and slow rolls.

This Advent has been both spiritual and very physical for us as we prepare for a baby. As the due date approaches, I look around my house and realize that it is about as baby-ready as a lion's den. The outlets on the wall I painted a few weeks ago still don't have outlet covers, much less plugs to go into unused outlets. The tools I used during the paint project are still at the top of the stairs to take into the workshop. Then there's the dust from a patch project in another room, along with another little stack of tools. And those are just the home repair issues. The rest of the house isn't configured for babies. The staircase doesn't have a gate, or netting, and then there's the pellet stove just standing there in the corner. And absolutely *nothing* is child-proofed. In short, a three-minute walk around the house produced enough tasks on the to-do list that I should be done sometime around the kid's graduation.

I know the baby won't be crawling or toddling for a while, but there's a sense of urgency to get my house in order. I know I don't need to be as prepared as the baby's parents, but I want to welcome that child in the best possible way. It's impossible for me **not** to see the parallels with Advent. What are the chores I started but never quite finished? What are the things in my life that keep me from welcoming the Baby Jesus?

Advent reminds us that just planning to do things isn't enough; we have to get to doing the work. We have to put away the things that interfere with our relationship with the Savior, and it starts with the little things we've been putting off or ignoring. Advent reminds us to prepare to welcome Jesus into our lives, not eventually, but soon and very soon.

The Third Sunday of Advent is known as Gaudete Sunday, or Joyful Sunday. I get that really well, the time is coming, and it's getting nearer; the excitement is palpable. We call it out as a special day to take in the joy that is about to come. Time to take stock of what we have accomplished in our preparations so far and lean into the changes we anticipate. We may not be able to get to all of our challenges, or complete them in time for Christmas, but by recognizing and prioritizing them we move forward in being ready to receive our Lord.

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.**



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. Please note that **a 2-week notice is required for scheduling all intentions.**

St. John the Evangelist

SAT, DEC 16	4 pm	Paul McMeniman: 1st Anniversary
SUN, DEC 17	930 am	People of the Parish
	6 pm	William O'Connell: Memorial
MON, DEC 18	9 am	LIVING INTENTION: Gavis Monteyero
TUE, DEC 19	9 am	Constance Parke: Month's Mind
WED, DEC 20	9 am	Dan O'Neill: Memorial
THU, DEC 21	9 am	Robert Wright: Birthday Memorial
FRI, DEC 22	9 am	David Shipko: Birthday Memorial
SAT, DEC 23	4 pm	Raymond St Pierre: 27th Anniversary
SUN, DEC 24	930 am	People of the Parish
	4 pm	People of the Parish
	10 pm	People of the Parish

St. Margaret of Scotland

SAT, DEC 16	4 pm	People of the Parish
SUN, DEC 17	730 am	Marie Lessard: Memorial
	10 am	Jean Krystof: Memorial
MON, DEC 18	8 am	Ryan Silva: Memorial
TUE, DEC 19	8 am	John Griffith: Memorial
WED, DEC 20	8 am	Richard Geoffroy: 1st Anniversary
THU, DEC 21	8 am	Martha and Myron Jarek: Memorial
FRI, DEC 22	8 am	Frank and Dorothy Campbell: Memorial
SAT, DEC 23	4 pm	Frank LaPan: Memorial
SUN, DEC 24	730 am	People of the Parish
	4 pm	People of the Parish

St. Mary Parish

SAT, DEC 16	4 pm	People of the Parish
SUN, DEC 17	11 am	Robert Gosselin and Susan Rose Hammond: Memorial
WED, DEC 20	7 am	Living Members of the Albin A Hastbacka Family
SAT, DEC 23	4 pm	Lilian and Raymond Russeau: Memorial
SUN, DEC 24	11 am	People of the Parish
	4 pm	People of the Parish
	6 pm	People of the Parish

Altar Flowers

Parishioners are invited to donate a floral arrangement to be displayed on the altar in memory of, or in honor of, a loved one. The requested donation for an arrangement is \$40.



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 Blessed Mother Lamp
In Memory of Debbie Camacho Chase

St. Margaret Sacred Heart Lamp
In Memory of Janice Chartier Bradley

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
Hollis and Theresa Sawyer**



Recent Funerals

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



Kathryn Hughes

Monday, December 11 • St. Mary

Rosemary McGrath

Tuesday, December 12 • St. John

Patricia Fisher

Tuesday, December 12 • St. Mary

Dolores Gauvreau

Wednesday, December 13 • St. Margaret

Kadiyatu Conteh-Kroma

Thursday, December 14 • St. Margaret

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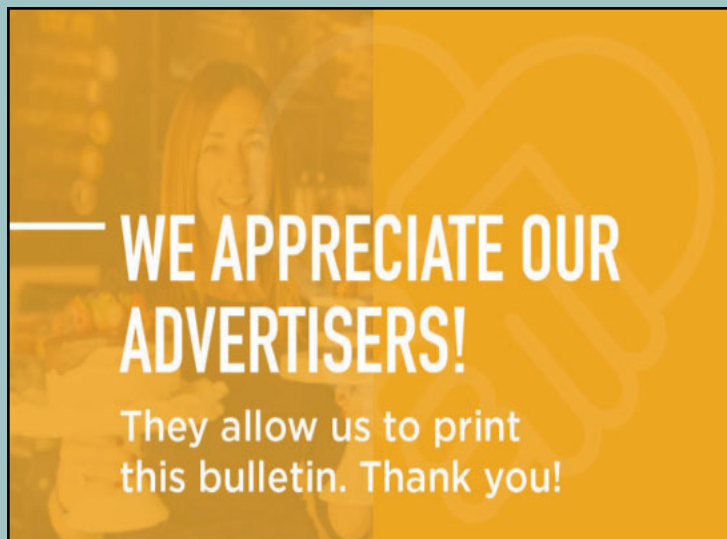


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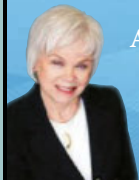
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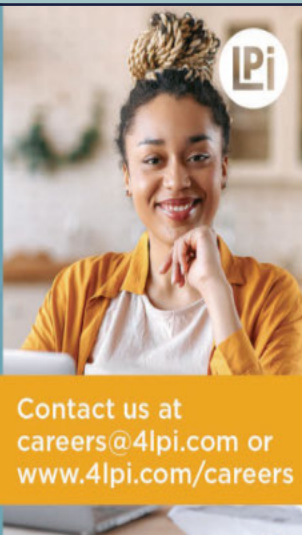
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