



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

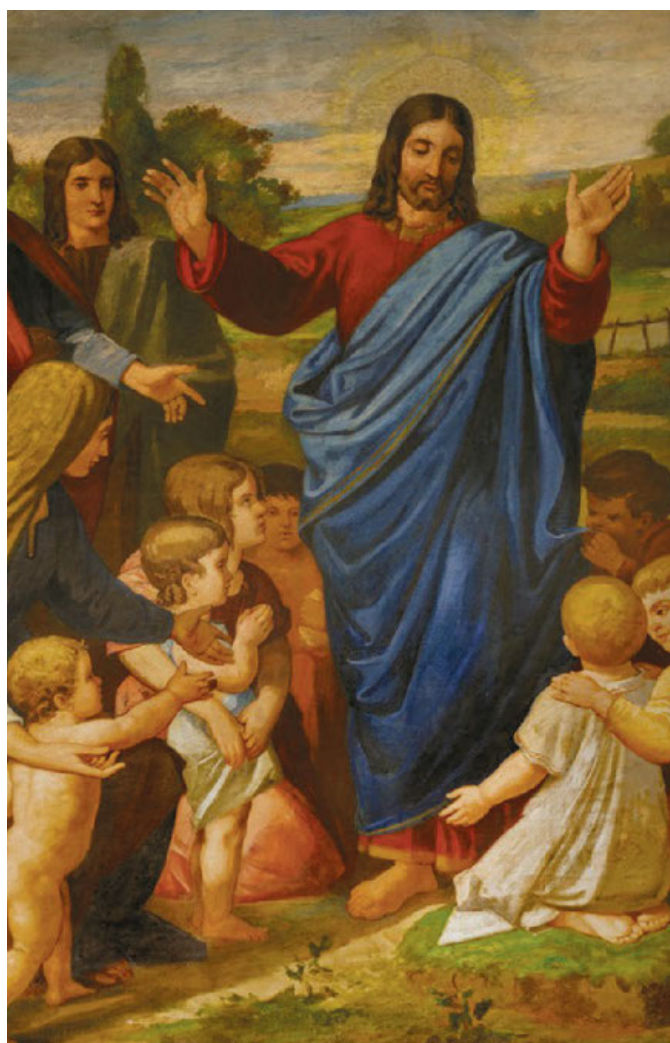


# February 11, 2024

## 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

He said to him, "See that you tell no one anything, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses prescribed; that will be proof for them. The man went away and began to publicize the whole matter. He spread the report abroad so that it was impossible for Jesus to enter a town openly.

- Mark 1: 44-45b



### Parish Office Location and Hours

115 Middlesex Street • North Chelmsford, 01863  
(978) 256-2374 | [www.theholyrood.org](http://www.theholyrood.org)

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday • 9 am - 5 pm

Wednesday • 9:30 am - 5:00 pm

Friday • 9 am - 3 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 - 2 pm • St. Margaret OLL Chapel

Thursdays • 12 pm - 9 pm • St. Mary Adoration Chapel

First Fridays at St. John OPC Adoration Chapel

1 pm - 10 pm; following Saturday 6 am - 8 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, February 12

Bible Study • 10 - 11:45 am • SM PC Conf Room 1  
 Confession • 4:30 - 5:30 pm • SJE Church  
 Fr. Brian Sacraments Presentation • 7 pm • SM Church and LIVEVIEW

## Tuesday, February 13

Coffee Group, following 9 am Mass • SJE Hall  
 BP Clinic, following 9 am Mass • SJE Hall  
 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

## Ash Wednesday, February 14

Adoration • 9 am - 2 pm • SMS OLL Chapel  
 Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3 pm • SJE Church and LIVEVIEW  
 Confession • 2 - 3:30 pm • SM Church  
 SM SVdP Meeting • 7 - 9 pm • SM PC Conf Room 1  
 Troop 77 Scout Meeting • 7 - 8:30 pm • SM Hall

## Thursday, February 15

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  
 Charismatic Prayer Group • 7 - 8 pm • SJE OPC  
 Rosary • 7 pm • SM Church and LIVEVIEW  
 SM 11 am Choir/Ensemble Rehearsal • 7:30 - 8:30 pm • SM Church

## Friday, February 16

Health Screening, following 8 am Mass • SMS SH Hall  
 Knitting and Crocheting • 2 - 4 pm • SM Hall  
 Fr. Patrick Lenten Retreat • 5:30 - 8:30 pm • SJE Church

## Saturday, February 17

Confessions • refer to cover  
 Men of St. Joseph • 7:30 - 9 am • SMS SH Hall  
 Contemplative Prayer Group • 9:30 - 11:30 am • SJE NPC Linehan  
 St. Mary Bell Choir • 2:30 - 3:30 pm • SM Choir Loft

## Sunday, February 18

Prayer Shawl Ministry • 9:30 - 11:30 am • SJE OPC  
 Family Mass • 11 am Mass at St. Mary  
 African Community General Meeting • 1:30 - 3 pm • SJE OPC  
 Eucharistic Adoration Holy Hour • 3:30 - 4:30 pm • SM Church

# Ash Wednesday

## MASS SCHEDULE

Wednesday, February 14

**St. Mary:** 7 am and 4 pm

**St. Margaret:** 8 am and 6 pm

**St. John:** 9 am and 7 pm

12 pm Liturgy of the Word



Please join us **THIS MONDAY, February 12** and hear Fr. Brian speak to us about the Sacrament of Penance.

7 pm at St. Mary Church

## Mass Attendance

Weekend of February 4th/5th

St. Mary		
4 pm	7 am	11 am
235	102	418

### St. Margaret of Scotland

4 pm	7:30 am	10 am
102	58	241

### St. John the Evangelist

4 pm	9:30 am	12 pm	6 pm
139	265	36	111



What is a frog's favorite month?

(answer on page 5)

For those staff members that have extensions listed, the number to call is (978) 256-2374. To send an email, 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](mailto:christine@theholyrood.org) or mail:

The Holy Rood 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](mailto:collaborativeppc@theholyrood.org)

Steve McMillan - Chair

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

## St. John Finance Council

SJE Finance matters can be sent to:  
[SJ.FC@theholyrood.org](mailto:SJ.FC@theholyrood.org)

Jeff Brown - Chair

John Bagni	Paul Brzezinski
Celeste Dunn	Grace Ann Steed

## St. Margaret Finance Council

SMS finance matters can be sent to:  
[SMS.FC@theholyrood.org](mailto:SMS.FC@theholyrood.org)

Robert Gilman - Chair

Thomas Kirwin	Betty McKiernan
Diana Patel	Marc Trudel

## St. Mary Finance Council

SM finance matters can be sent to:  
[SM.FC@theholyrood.org](mailto:SM.FC@theholyrood.org)

Lauren Desforge - Chair

Armand DiLando	Ted Powers
Paul Therrien	Paul Rigazio



# here's what's happening in The Holy

## St. Patrick's & Dinner Party & Shamrock Raffle

Saturday, March 16  
St. John Parish Hall

**Doors Open at 5 pm/ Dinner Service at 5:45 pm**

Live Music Performances by Bud Caulfield and Ed Ciampa  
Shamrock Raffle: \$20 for 25 chances  
Door Prize and Selfie Booth

**TICKETS WILL NOT BE SOLD AT THE DOOR.  
IN ADVANCE SALES ONLY!**

Tickets (\$25 per\*) will be sold at all churches on the weekends of March 2/3 and March 9/10. They will also be available for purchase in the parish offices through Friday, March 8.

\* ticket includes appetizer, dinner, dessert, beverages  
BYOB (beer and wine ONLY)



\* corned beef provided by  
Alpine Butcher in Lowell

## Saint John the Evangelist Saint Vincent de Paul Ministry

We are VERY grateful to the parishioners and friends of Saint John the Evangelist Parish who helped make our "HELP US to HELP OTHERS" basket raffle a huge success. Your generosity means everything to us and to the community we serve. Your continued financial support and food donations helps keep the lights on, a roof overhead, and food on the table for many families in need. We simply couldn't do what we do without amazing people like you.

**Congratulations  
to Miriam Buckley**



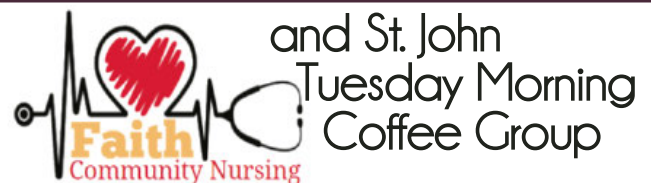
## DO NOT RESPOND!

As some of you may already know, the fake Fr. Brian is at it again! This past week, a number of individuals received text messages from him asking for a favor and to please respond.

Please **DELETE** and **DO NOT CLICK ON ANY LINKS** as the purpose of these messages is ill-intended. Fr. Brian would NEVER ask for a favor in this way. Keep this response in mind if you should receive an email as well.

We ask that you help us to pass the word along to NOT RESPOND to these texts or emails.

We thank you for your assistance in keeping us all safe from hackers!



are coming together this Tuesday, February 13, following the St. John 9 am Mass

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



There will also be a health care screening **THIS Friday, February 16.** Join our Faith Community nurses in the Sacred Heart Hall following St. Margaret of Scotland's 8 am Mass.

## DID YOU KNOW?



Did you know that the Faith Community Nursing Ministry of The Holy Rood Collaborative can assist with transportation for appointments, grocery shopping, picking up prescriptions or simply provide a check-in? Feel free to contact the Parish Offices at (978) 256-2374 or Charlene at (978) 649-6583 for additional information.

# Rood Collaborative community



## Lifting Our Voices to the Lord

### Love to sing? Sing with us Holy Week!

Join The Holy Rood Collaborative Choir as we prepare to raise our voices in song and prayer during Holy Week:

#### **Holy Thursday: Mass of the Lord's Supper | March 28**

- Rehearse Wednesday, March 6 | 6:30pm at St. Mary

#### **Good Friday: Passion of Our Lord | March 29**

- Rehearse Wednesday, March 13 | 6:30pm at St. Margaret

#### **Easter Vigil | March 30**

- Rehearse Wednesday, March 20 | 6:30pm at St. John

Interested? Email any of our Music Directors!

- Theresa at [stjohnmusic@theholyrood.org](mailto:stjohnmusic@theholyrood.org)
- Mike at [stmarymusic@theholyrood.org](mailto:stmarymusic@theholyrood.org)
- Matt at [music@theholyrood.org](mailto:music@theholyrood.org)

### Collaborative Easter Youth Choir

Children and Teens in grades 2-12 are invited to join in singing with The Holy Rood Collaborative Easter Youth Choir at the St. John 9:30 am Mass on Easter Sunday, March 31.

Rehearsal dates are as follows, beginning at 4:30 pm

- Monday, March 18
- Tuesday, March 26

Email Theresa at [stjohnmusic@theholyrood.org](mailto:stjohnmusic@theholyrood.org) for details.

### St. John Easter Adult Choir

Join us in singing at the 9:30 am Easter Sunday Mass at St. John, or on ANY 1st, 3rd or 5th Sunday of the month! We gather at 8:45 am to review the music before Mass. You do not have to commit to every week; join in when you can!

Questions?

Email Theresa at [stjohnmusic@theholyrood.org](mailto:stjohnmusic@theholyrood.org)

**ATTENTION! YOUTH WHO LOVE DRAMA BUT  
DON'T HAVE THE TIME TO MEMORIZE LINES!**



"Were You There?" is a dramatic presentation of seven Bible readings, bringing the Passion of Christ to life through mime and movement. It is based on a Tenebrae Service—where the story begins in the light and gradually darkens, leading to the Crucifixion in total darkness. It is a very powerful and moving experience for both those who perform it and those who witness it.

"Were You There?" will be presented on ...

**Tuesday, March 12 at 7:30 pm**  
**St. John Church**

**Any youth in grade 8 or above who would like to be part of this beautiful service is invited to contact Otie Doldt-Harpin at (978) 677-1273.**

## ST. JOHN'S Beautification Offering

This offering funds the beautification of St. John's Altar. Your voluntary donation can be accompanied by the request that it be "In Memory/Appreciation Of," or "For the Intentions Of" someone.

Mr and Mrs William Chase Jr  
DeVita Family

The Holy Rood Collaborative  
Mr and Mrs Joseph Palermo Sr



answer: February, because it has a leap year!



## 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!

ST. MARY WEEKLY OFFERTORY	Weekend of February 3rd/4th	Fiscal Year-To-Date February 4th	Fiscal YTD Average/Week
Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses	\$14,500	\$464,000	\$14,500
Actual Received	\$18,411	\$438,326	\$13,698
Shortfall/ Overage	\$3,911	-\$25,674	-\$802

ST. JOHN WEEKLY OFFERTORY	Weekend of February 3rd/4th	Fiscal Year-To-Date February 4th	Fiscal YTD Average/Week
Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses	\$10,300	\$329,600	\$10,300
Actual Received	\$12,740	\$280,813	\$8,775
Shortfall/ Overage	\$2,440	-\$48,787	-\$1,525

ST. MARGARET WEEKLY OFFERTORY	Weekend of February 3rd/4th	Fiscal Year-To-Date February 4th	Fiscal YTD Average/Week
Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses	\$4,800	\$153,600	\$4,800
Actual Received	\$5,544	\$143,558	\$4,486
Shortfall/ Overage	\$744	-\$10,042	-\$314

SECOND COLLECTION	St. Mary	St. John	St. Margaret
Church in Latin America	\$2,494	\$1,649	\$1,668

For details about our Grand Annual, please visit  
<https://theholyrood.org/grand-annual-campaign>

thank you

## GRAND ANNUAL AS OF FEBRUARY 4TH

	Goal	Raised	%age of Goal
St. Mary	\$100,000	\$71,290	71.29%
St. John	\$70,000	\$38,966	55.67%
St. Margaret	\$70,000	\$44,144	63.06%

# 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

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

### Grade 1

Lent Leads  
us to Easter  
*parents must attend  
last 30 minutes of class*

### Grade 2

In Class:  
Meeting Jesus in the  
Sacraments

At Home...  
Follow the Blessed First  
Communion Parent Guide  
*parents must attend  
last 30 minutes of class*

### Grade 3-6

Children remain in hall and  
parents separate in  
Disciples Groups to learn  
about reconciliation

### Grade 7&8

Altaration Session 5:  
"The Why's Behind  
the What's"

### Confirmation I

Chosen Lesson 5:  
"Who is Jesus?"

Prayer: Going Deeper  
with Rote Prayer

### Confirmation II

Prayer: Holy Hour

## FEBRUARY CLASS SCHEDULE

### GRADE 3-6 | SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11 | PARENTS IN DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

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

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

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

### GRADE 2 SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25

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

### CONFIRMATION I SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25

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

### CONFIRMATION II SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11

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



### February Catechist Check via ZOOM

Thursday, February 29<sup>th</sup>

- Confirmation I & II | 7 pm – 8 pm
- Grades 3 to 6 | 8 pm – 9 pm

Help us and each other leap through the rest of this year!

## FEBRUARY DEEP DIVES

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

### Attendance at Ash Wednesday Mass

Wednesday, February 14 | See page 4 for schedule

### Collaborative Lenten Retreat (see page9)

Friday, February 16 | 6-9 pm | St. John Church

### Soup and Stations (stations at 6 pm, followed by soup/fellowship)

Friday, February 23 | St. Mary 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.





# Our Annual Lenten Journey

Join us on our annual Lenten pilgrimage,  
beginning Ash Wednesday, February 14, ending with the Triduum—beginning March 28th—  
culminating in Easter Joy on March 31st!

## WHY NO MUSIC DURING LENT? by Mike Stack, Music Director, St. Mary Church

As Catholics, we are called to sacrifice for Lent, engaging in self-control and self-reflection through fasting and abstaining. A lot of us “give up” something we love for Lent. It turns out, this is true of our music as well.

In Lent, we give up the Gloria and the Alleluia. Both expressions of deep joy in praising God, in this more solemn time, we put them aside, the Gloria omitted completely, the Alleluia replaced. It is through this that we create one of my favorite musical moments in the church—the Gloria and the Alleluia triumphant at the Easter Vigil in the midst of the story of Salvation History.

But there’s more to it than just those two hymns—instrumental music is not allowed at Mass during Lent—you’ll notice that we do away with long hymn introductions and instrumental verses during Lent. Our instruments only support singing. And likewise, we only sing the songs that are our response during the Mass like the Psalm and Holy or during the Entrance, Offertory and Communion processions. We do not sing at other times—including before and after Mass, after Communion, and perhaps most starkly, as we leave the church after the Dismissal, we depart in silence.

The Church in its wisdom does grant us a reprieve from this: Laetare Sunday—the fourth Sunday of Lent. A day of joyful anticipation of the coming Resurrection, akin to Gaudete Sunday in Advent with its pink candle, we don’t sing Alleluias or Glorias, but we do embrace all our other hymns and traditions. But other than that, it gets a little quieter in our churches until we get to Easter, when we can shout our Alleluias with joy: I expect to hear every one of you singing it with us!

## FASTING AND ABSTINENCE

**FASTING:** Catholics age 18 and up to the beginning of their 60<sup>th</sup> year are bound to the obligation of fasting. Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all Fridays of Lent, are

defined as the days of fasting. On these days, only 1 full meatless meal is allowed. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one’s needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted; but liquids, including milk and fruit juices, are allowed.

**ABSTINENCE:** Catholics over 14 years of age are bound to the obligations of abstinence. Abstinence (no meat) is to be observed on Ash Wednesday, Fridays of Lent and Good Friday.

## LENTEN ALMSGIVING

Our Collaborative Social Justice Committee has again, for its International Initiative, committed to support our Sister Parish, Our Lady Star of the Sea, in Sierra Leone, West Africa.

During this Lenten Season, we will be conducting an Almsgiving collection to support this parish, which is deeply dedicated to serving its community through corporal and spiritual works of mercy. Your material and goods donations in years past have helped this community in a number of profound ways.

This year, you may donate via online giving, available through all of our churches. If you would like to donate by check, please make checks payable to either St. John the Evangelist, St. Mary or St. Margaret of Scotland and note ‘Lenten Almsgiving’ in the memo. Please do NOT make your check out to The Holy Rood Collaborative as it is not a financial entity.





## SOUP AND STATIONS SCHEDULE

Stations at 6 pm, followed by Soup/Fellowship

**St. John:** February 16\* and March 8

**St. Mary:** February 23 and March 15

**St. Margaret:** March 1 and 22

\*stations only, as part of Fr. Patrick's Lenten Retreat

Stations will also be prayed on all Tuesdays of Lent, following the Chaplet via St. John LIVEVIEW



## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

offering additional opportunities throughout Lent



In addition to our regular confession schedule, we will be offering Wednesday evening confessions as part of The Light Is On For You initiative. Each of our churches will have confession from 6:30 - 8 pm on the following dates:

February 21, 28 | March 6, 13, 20, 27

Our regular confession schedule is as follows:

**Mondays:** 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm at St. John

**Tuesdays:** 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm at St. Margaret

**Wednesdays:** 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm at St. Mary  
2:00 pm - 3:30 pm on Ash Wednesday

**Saturdays:** 11 am - 12 noon at St. Mary  
1 pm - 2 pm at St. Margaret  
3 pm - 3:45 pm at St. John

## MUSIC EVENTS SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

### Lent Blues

Tuesday, February 27 | 7 pm at St. Mary Church

### Lenten Scripture and Song for Families

Sunday, March 10 | 3:30 pm at St. John Church

### Palm Sunday Cantata

Sunday, March 24 | 3 pm at St. Mary Church



## LENTEN PRESENTATIONS



Fr. Patrick and the St. John African Community present their 2024 Lent Retreat

Friday, February 16 | 5:30 - 8:30 pm | St. John Church

### THEME: Prayer and other Spiritual Exercise for Lent

presented by Rev. Father Silas Akpan, C.S.Sp.  
Scholar Priest in Residence

Sts. Louis and Zelig Martin Parish, Somerville, MA

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament | Rosary | Confession  
Speaker Presentation and Discussion | Stations of the Cross  
Intercessory Prayer | Celebration of Holy Mass



### Redemptive Suffering

presented by Fr. Brian

Monday, February 26

7 pm at St. Mary Church and LIVEVIEW

In order to bring healing into the world Jesus took on our sins and our suffering and nailed them to the cross. In taking on the totality of human sin and suffering, Jesus shows us the way to transform it through his own suffering death and resurrection. We will explore what this means.

### "Were You There?" | Prayer in Motion

Youth will be presenting this form of a Tenebrae Service where the Passion of Christ, told in seven Bible readings, come to life through dramatic word, mime and movement.



Tuesday, March 12 | 7:30 pm at St. John Church

### Collaborative Lenten Retreat

Monday, March 18 & Tuesday, March 19  
6:30 pm at St. Mary Church



Presented by Kate Capato  
Catholic Sacred Art Painter and  
Inspirational Speaker

### Monday: Encounter the Divine

Beauty is not an extra. It has a deep value to your life that is to be prioritized. Find out exactly what it is and why it is important for us all. Experience an evening of transformation and encounter the Divine through authentic Beauty. This evening will feature a presentation combined with a hands-on prayer experience as Kate guides us through a sacred art for beginners exercise.

### Tuesday: Our Lady and the Eucharist

Dive deep into the power of the Lord's presence in the Eucharist and Our Blessed Lady, the tabernacle, through sacred art! This evening will feature a presentation combined with a prayerful visio divina experience with Kate's original Sacred Art Paintings.

Both evening's exercises will be accompanied by live prayerful music performed by her husband, Pawel.

*From the  
Pastor*



Last week we closed our conversation with how the message of Christ is intended to be embodied in our lives now, and that the sacrament of Confirmation strengthens and orients our lives to this reality.

So, how do we make that happen? It is about planting the right seeds in our baptismal soil. The full outpouring of the Holy Spirit gives us those seeds, which are the gifts of the Holy Spirit: knowledge, understanding, wisdom, counsel, piety, fortitude, and fear of the Lord. These seeds must be planted in our garden in order to grow true virtues. From these seeds will grow the fruits of the Holy Spirit, which are: love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. These seeds and fruits, empowered by the Holy Spirit, will help us reap the virtues that enable us to grow in a proper relationship with Christ.

It is not possible to go through all the virtues, but we can examine some of them to see how they work. Faith is a theological virtue which is only possible through the grace of the Holy Spirit. But it requires our cooperation, or participation, and so we need to embrace the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit. The first gift of the Spirit that we should examine is fear of the Lord. Fear of the Lord is *not* about being afraid of God. Rather, it is recognizing that God is God and we are *not*. It is also about coming to fall in love with God for no other reason than He is God. It ultimately opens us to the potential of entering into a true and deep relationship with Him. This is the first step in growing in true faith. It is understanding our dependence on God, understanding his promises, and putting our trust in them. Wisdom is connected to understanding, for as we grow in knowledge and understanding we grow in wisdom. So, faith and wisdom go hand in hand: true wisdom is only possible with faith, and faith can only deepen and grow through wisdom. Another seed that is planted and blossoms is piety. Piety is about coming to worship God as He desires to be worshipped. We cannot self-determine how to worship God. God knows what is best for us, and we dependent on Him for all things including how we should worship Him. However, our worship of God does nothing for God. Rather, our praise and worship helps us grow in proper relationship with God. The only one who can give God perfect worship is Jesus. Our worship then should be about uniting ourselves to the worship of Christ. As we grow in piety, our faith should deepen and help us grow closer and closer to Christ.

We next look at how these seeds and fruits can help us reap the virtue of hope. We begin by looking at fortitude. Fortitude is essentially not allowing fear to determine how we are going to act. Fortitude, or courage, is the ability to do what is right in the face of fear. It gives us the strength to know what is right and how God desires us to act. We also recognize that our God is with us in order to give us the gifts and strength to “accomplish what our faith teaches us, regardless of earthly concerns. We become more focused on what we

must do to be a true Christian. We can find hope even in the most difficult moments of our lives: we know that we have what we need to accomplish what God desires of us. Hope is connected in certain ways to the gift of understanding. As a Christian we know that the world is not the way God wants it to be: God has other plans. With the gift of understanding we recognize that our God is with us and will give us what we need to fulfill his promises and plans. This sense of understanding allows us to recognize that no one situation defines what life means or where we will end up. God has *only* our good in his heart; we simply need to trust, and true understanding helps us to do that. Furthermore, with the fruit of peace—no matter the situation—we know that God is greater than what is occurring. Things may not turn out exactly the way we want but, ultimately, all situations can be transformed into something good for us. God is greater than whatever is happening. And with that fruit of peace, our hearts can focus on the presence of God; He can give us a sense of hope even in the most daunting situations.

Love is both a fruit of the Holy Spirit and a theological virtue, which is strengthened as a virtue through the fruit of forbearance. Forbearance is not simply putting up with a difficult situation. Rather, it is about putting the needs of others before our needs. As Saint Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians: “Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, love is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests. It is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.” True love does not look to see what I can get out of a relationship. It is about the willingness to always choose what is best for the other, no matter the consequences. This does not mean that you put up with abusive behavior, but simply that we are not seeking our own interests. And at times we may need to be patient with the other as they discern who God has created them to be. We are there to help that to happen. We are also called to be truly kind which is *not* doing nice things for people. Kindness sometimes calls us to challenge the person to change. That is the true mark of love. But to do this well we must exhibit the fruit of self-control. It must be the Holy Spirit that leads us to act in the loving manner that God desires. Self-control is *not* me controlling myself: rather, it is giving control of my life to the Holy Spirit who determines how we should act in accord with God’s will. When we do that, it will ultimately lead us to loving in the manner God desires us to love.

The final virtue we will explore is patience. And the one fruit that helps us grow in patience is gentleness. It is about meeting the other where they’re at. We cannot treat everyone the same way because we are all different. So, how we come to encounter a person is based on their needs and struggles, and we cannot predetermine what a person needs or how they should act. It is about reflecting on the situation and being God’s instrument in the way God wants us to interact with this person. Through prayer and openness to the Spirit, we react in accord with

the Spirit's direction. In other words, we show restraint or, better put, the fruit of self-control. Patience then is not about putting up with things. Rather, it is about being proactive in the sense that we allow the Holy Spirit to direct our actions.

The great gift of Confirmation gives us the opportunity to develop a true garden of virtues. God makes this possible by helping us prepare the garden: giving us rich soil, the proper water, sun and fertilizer, and the seeds that will produce good fruit. Our role as the farmer of this great garden is simply to cooperate with God's grace which will ultimately enable us to live the life of virtue that He calls us to.

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 Pastoral Associate

Sr. Lori Fleming, SNDdeN

### Make Time to Touch Him

Have you ever, like me, wanting to get **"in touch with"** someone, dialed a phone number to hear the voice message response, "You have reached . I am not available now ." When this happens, I say to myself—sometimes aloud, "Obviously I have not reached you."

**Touch** is the basic sense that not only allows us to receive and to give information about both our external and internal environments, but it also fosters the development of an intimate relationship that nurtures a community-minded consciousness of belonging.

There are many ways we **touch** one another: physical presence and closeness, frequent visits, engaging conversations, shared participation in the same activities, and praying together—revealing our inner identity to one another.

Conversion is a process of turning to **touch** Jesus, our Savior, and believing in the Good News of the Gospel. Our loving Creator, God, is the initiator of the interior and exterior wanting to get **"in touch with"** calls we receive, inviting us to awareness of His presence, listening and sharing conversations, companionship on the day's journey, and time in solitude to deepen the roots of belonging that our Baptismal consecration indelibly marked in our being.

We have faith in and feel safe with the people we **touch** and who **touch** us. We recognize and accept our communion as brothers and sisters in the family of God.

Let us look at our relationship with Jesus, our God and our brother. Where do we feel the need to reach out to be **"in touch with"** Him. Where do we open to allow Him to be **"in touch with"** us?

As we prepare to enter the season of Lent, may we pray for the grace to **touch** Jesus and to be open to His healing **touch** in whatever way(s) and whenever He calls.

## From our Parochial Vicar

Fr. Patrick Alemayo, C.S.Sp.

### The Leper's Prayer of Faith

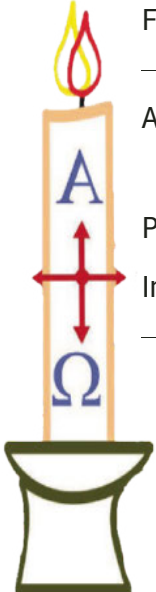
On Sunday, January 21, 2024 (Word of God Sunday), the Holy Father, Pope Francis, announced that 2024 be marked as a Year of Prayer. Pope Francis proclaimed: "2024 will be dedicated to a great 'symphony' of prayer." For him, this will help us "to recover the desire to be in the presence of the Lord, to listen to him and adore him" (*Pope Francis' Letter on the Jubilee Year 2025*). In line with the Holy Father's pronouncement, our Lenten retreat this year, 2024, will focus on prayer and other spiritual exercises in Lent. Today's Gospel presents to us the individual prayer of a Leper. He knelt before Jesus and begged him saying, "If you wish, you can make me clean."

At the time of Jesus, leprosy was considered so infectious that those with it were discriminated against and, in fact, excluded from the community. Anyone who touched a leper became unclean. The leper, as a sign of great desperation, broke all Jewish laws to come near Jesus. Out of fear, the people around Jesus most likely ran away from him. But what was Jesus' reaction to this man on his knees before him? In reply to the leper's prayer of faith, Jesus, moved with pity, stretched out his hand and touched him. By this, Jesus identifies with him and answers his prayer by saying: "I do will it. Be made clean!" The man was healed instantly.

This Gospel coalesces nicely as we start the Season of Lent in this Year of Prayer. During this time, every one of us is invited to intensify prayer and approach Jesus with faith, with our personal and community needs, and with all our sins that are like leprosy, and say, "If you wish, you can make me clean." Jesus says to each of us in return, "I do will it. Be made clean." Lent is a time of cleansing. Prayer helps us to submit to God's will and overcome the leprosy of self-centeredness. Almsgiving helps us to triumph over the leprosy of selfishness and offer support to the poor. Fasting helps us to overcome the leprosy of seeking vain pleasure so that we can learn how to hunger for God's righteousness. We all need the humility to acknowledge our needs and come to God in Jesus so that he, moved with pity, can stretch out his hand, touch us and heal us.



**Paschal Candle** Would you like to make a donation in memory of someone towards your church's purchase of this year's Paschal Candle? If so, please complete the following form and drop into offertory basket or black drop boxes with your donation. Please write your check to the church in which you are donating and note 'Paschal Candle' on the Memo line. Questions? Contact Tina!



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In Memory Names of  
will be printed in the Easter Bulletin.

This form can also be found on our website at  
<https://theholyrood.org/lent>



This year, our Collaborative will be welcoming five individuals into the Church at the Easter Vigil through the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.

As we enter the Season of Lent these five individuals will be entering the final phases of their preparation to become Catholic Christians. We ask that you keep them in prayer, along with the one adult who is preparing to come into full communion with the Catholic Church through the Sacrament of Confirmation.

So we can pray for them by name, please note below...

### Mach, Jahwaun, Timothy, Brendan and Tyler

Next week, on the First Sunday of Lent, at the St. Mary 11 am Mass, they will participate in the **Rite of Sending**. This Rite "affords the parish community the opportunity to express its approval, to rejoice in the decision of these individuals to receive the sacraments of initiation, and to assure the Catechumens and Candidates of the community's care and support."



Following the celebration of this Rite, the Catechumens will travel to the Cathedral to participate in the **Rite of Election**. At the Rite of Election, the Catechumens will become the **Elect**, as this rite takes its name from the fact that here, "acting in God's name, the Church makes its 'election,' that is, the choice and admission of those catechumens who have the dispositions that make them fit to take part in the Sacraments of Initiation."

Later in the Lenten Season, the Elect will participate in the three Scrutinies. More on that in the coming weeks...



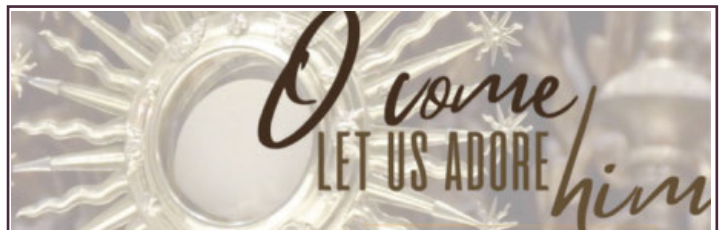
### SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

The Knights of Columbus is again sponsoring a \$1000 Scholarship to be awarded to a high-school, graduating senior from The Holy Rood Collaborative that will be attending an accredited school or institution of higher education—2 or 4-year college or trade school—in the fall of 2024.

The required application, and terms of the required essay can be found at [www.knights9275.com](http://www.knights9275.com). Click on "SCHOLARSHIP INFO" in the left-hand sidebar at the bottom, and this document will be downloaded to your computer.

Deadline and mailing information can also be found on this form.

Questions? email [knights9275@gmail.com](mailto:knights9275@gmail.com).



Holy Hour | NEXT SUNDAY | 3:30 - 4:30 | St. Mary  
Celebrant: Fr. Fernando



## ADDITION OF NEW STONE PILLARS IS PLANNED

The Chelmsford Veterans Memorial Park is pleased to announce plans to add two new stone pillars to the Park (located to the left of McCarthy Middle School). Eligible living Chelmsford veterans, or family of deceased veterans, are invited to participate in this wonderful way to honor a veteran's memory for generations to come. It would make a memorable gift in honor of a special event.

There will be a total of 136 name slots available on a first come, first served basis. The pillars will not be completed until all slots are spoken for. The criteria for listing a living or deceased veteran's name, the cost, and an application can be found on our website at [ChelmsfordVeteransPark.org](http://ChelmsfordVeteransPark.org) or at the Chelmsford Veterans Services office at town hall.

Lazarus Center for Healing Shrine welcomes Gilbert R. Lavoie, MD, who invites you on a fascinating adventure to examine the Shroud of Turin, juxtaposing scientific findings with John's Gospel account of the death and resurrection of Jesus. The story of the life of Jesus comes alive through relatable, real-world scientific witnesses who explore whether the image on the shroud is the work of human hands, a natural phenomenon, or a supernatural event.



**March 6 | 6—8 pm**

**Lazarus Center for Healing Shrine**

47 Butler Ave, Wakefield, MA

6 pm Mass | 6:30 pm Presentation | 7:30 pm Mass

Dr. Lavoie is a medical doctor, a specialist in internal medicine, occupational medicine, and public health. He has also pursued a forensic and scriptural study of the Shroud of Turin for more than 40 years.

# Archdiocesan happenings



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**  
Spring 2024 Dates: March 23 / May 11/ June TBA  
(location is confidential)

If you are burdened by the spiritual and emotional pain of a past abortion, contact us for more information about attending any of these retreats, or getting a referral to a specially trained priest for sacramental Reconciliation.

All services are free and confidential.  
There is a limit of 10 participants per retreat so reserve your spot today!

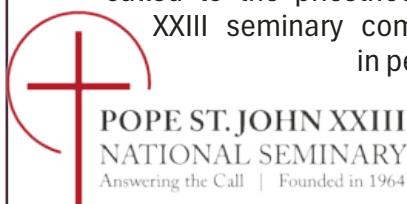
Call (508) 651-3100 or email [help@projectrachelboston.com](mailto:help@projectrachelboston.com).

Did You Know?  
that Cardinal Sean O'Malley has a BLOG?

<https://cardinalseansblog.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.



**March 1 at 5 pm**

- Prayer and Fellowship
- Holy Hour and Evening Prayer

If attending in-person, you will dine with the seminarians and receive 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](mailto:msgr.fay@psjs.edu).

**FIRST  
FRIDAY  
VISITS**

## 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

<b>SAT, FEB 10</b>	4 pm	Jim Dolan Sr: 1st Anniversary
<b>SUN, FEB 11</b>	930 am	Gus Skamarycz and Edward J Locke: Memorial
	12 pm	LIVING INTENTION: Veronica thanking God for another year and healthy life
	6 pm	People of the Parish
<b>MON, FEB 12</b>	9 am	Alice and Wilfred LeBlanc: Memorial
<b>TUE, FEB 13</b>	9 am	Robert L Cole: 18th Anniversary
<b>WED, FEB 14</b>	9 am	Ash Wednesday Masses are For the People
<b>THU, FEB 15</b>	9 am	Lucille Fortier: Memorial
<b>FRI, FEB 16</b>	9 am	Josephine and Marcellin Gallant: Memorial
<b>SAT, FEB 17</b>	4 pm	Maurice W Pontbriant Sr: Memorial
<b>SUN, FEB 18</b>	930 am	People of the Parish

### St. Margaret of Scotland

<b>SAT, FEB 10</b>	4 pm	Ann M Langan: 1st Anniversary
<b>SUN, FEB 11</b>	730 am	Richard J Foley: 21st Anniversary
	10 am	People of the Parish
<b>MON, FEB 12</b>	8 am	Fr Paul F Manning: Memorial
<b>TUE, FEB 13</b>	8 am	Catherine Trudel: Memorial
<b>WED, FEB 14</b>	8 am	Ash Wednesday Masses are For the People
<b>SAT, FEB 17</b>	4 pm	People of the Parish
<b>SUN, FEB 18</b>	730 am	Fr Paul F Manning: Memorial
	10 am	Patrick and Kay McCabe: Memorial

### St. Mary Parish

<b>SAT, FEB 10</b>	4 pm	Raymond Anstiss Sr: 14th Anniversary
<b>SUN, FEB 11</b>	11 am	People of the Parish
<b>MON, FEB 12</b>	7 am	Bertha Mae Carroll Sullivan: 5th Anniversary
<b>TUE, FEB 13</b>	7 am	George Goguen: 13th Anniversary
<b>WED, FEB 14</b>	7 am	Ash Wednesday Masses are For the People
<b>FRI, FEB 16</b>	7 am	Francis Casserly: Memorial
<b>SAT, FEB 17</b>	4 pm	People of the Parish
<b>SUN, FEB 18</b>	11 am	John Smaldone: 3rd Anniversary

To schedule any of the below intentions, please contact the Parish Offices at (978) 256-2374.



### Altar Flowers

Flowers are not permitted to be displayed during the Lenten Season.



### 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 6 pm, followed by the ringing of the Angelus bell and 2 hymns. At 3 pm, 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.



For a minimum donation of \$100, your loved one's name will be included on a Missal in the church of your choice.

To learn more, please visit <https://theholyrood.org/remember-a-loved-one> and click on the 'missal memorial' tab, or contact Christine at (978) 254-4406.



### Recent Funerals

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

**Sheila Anne Sweeney** • Monday, February 5 • St. Margaret

**Patricia Ring** • Tuesday, February 6 • St. John

**Richard Ring** • Tuesday, February 6 • St. John

**Lucy Petullo** • Thursday, February 8 • St. Margaret

**William Renison** • Saturday, February 10 • St. Mary



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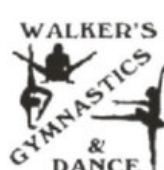
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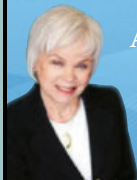
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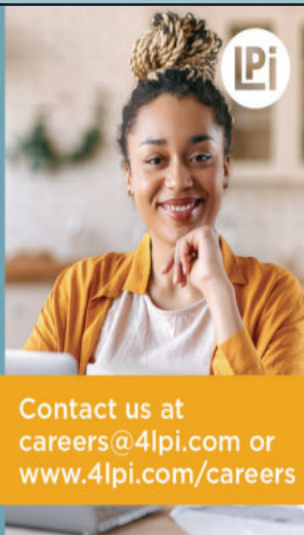
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