

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**



March 3, 2024 Third Sunday of Lent

Since the Passover of the Jews was near, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. He found in the temple area those who sold oxen, sheep and doves, as well as money changers seated there. He mad a whip out of cords and drove them all out of the temple area.

- John 2: 13b-15a



Parish Office Location and Hours

115 Middlesex Street • North Chelmsford, 01863 (978) 256-2374 | 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, March 4

** Offices Closed from 1:30 - 3:30 pm **

Bible Study • 10 - 11:45 am • SM PC Conf Room 1 Confession • 4:30 - 5:30 pm • SJE Church SJE SVdP Meeting • 7 - 8:45 pm • SJE OPC

Tuesday, March 5

Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3 pm • SJE Church and LIVEVIEW Stations of the Cross following Chaplet • SJE Church and LIVEVIEW Confession • 4:30 - 5:30 pm • SMS Church

Wednesday, March 6

Adoration • 9 am - 2 pm • SMS OLL Chapel Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3 pm • SJE Church and LIVEVIEW Confession • 4:30 - 5:30 pm • SM Church The Light is on For You Confession • 6:30 - 8 pm • All Churches Holy Thursday Choir Rehearsal • 6:30 - 8:30 pm • SM Church Hope After Heartbreak • 6:30 - 8 pm • SM PC Conf Room 1 God, Pizza and Beer • 7 - 8:30 pm • SJE OPC Troop 77 Scout Meeting • 7 - 8:30 pm • SM Hall

Thursday, March 7

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

Friday, March 8

Knitting and Crocheting • 2 - 4 pm • SM Hall Stations of the Cross, followed by Soup • 6 pm • SJE Church

Saturday, March 9

Confessions • refer to cover Men's Group • 7:45 - 8:45 am • SMS SVdP Room SJE Hospitality Meeting • 9:15 am - 12 pm • SJE Hall SM 11 am Choir/Ensemble Rehearsal • 12 - 1 pm • SM Church St. Mary Bell Choir • 2:30 - 3:30 pm • SM Choir Loft

Sunday, March 10

Family Mass • 9:30 am Mass at St. John

THE ANNUAL LENTEN RETREAT WILL BE A 'TREAT' THIS YEAR!

Kate Capato, Visual Grace, is a Catholic sacred art painter and speaker rooted in the tradition of the faith. As a missionary of Divine Beauty, Kate travels around with her art speaking about beauty and



the ways the Lord shares his love with us through it. Her husband, Pawel, joins in with his talent of music to create a fuller experience of a transcendent encounter with Christ.

We are blessed to have Kate with us on Monday, March 18 and Tuesday, March 19, where she will combine the beauty of our faith with the beauty of her art. Each night is independent of the other, but we highly recommend attending both.

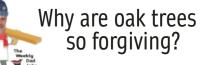
For more details, refer to page 11!

Mass Attendance Weekend of February 24th/25th

St. Mary
4 pm 7 am 11 am

/ \	107	140	202
_ \	St. Margaret of Scotland		
T-1 \	4 pm	7:30 am	10 am
20000	130	52	178
17.00	1		

j_	St. John the Evangelist			
7	4 pm	9:30 am	12 pm	6 pm
	153	226	53	139



(answer on page 7)

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

Collaborative Parish Council

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

Steve McMillan - Chair

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

Lyte Wilecter

St. John Finance Council

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

Jeff Brown - Chair

John Bagni Paul Brzezenski Celeste Dunn Grace Ann Steed

St. Margaret Finance Council

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

Robert Gilman - Chair

Thomas Kirwin Betty McKiernan Diana Patel Marc Trudel

St. Mary Finance Council

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

Lauren Desforge - Chair

Armand DiLando Ted Powers Paul Therrien Paul Rigazio

here's what's happening in he Holy

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

Tickets (\$25 per*) will be sold at all churches THIS WEEKEND, March 2/3 and next weekend, 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)



Saturday, March 16 St. John Parish Hall

Doors Open at 5 pm/ Dinner Service at 5:45 pm Live Music ● Shamrock Raffle ● Door Prize ● Selfie Booth

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. JOHN

Mach Noah Sok Jr Mia Egdomilia Sok

BAPTIZED AT ST. MARGARET

Roni Therese Karen Broderick Noah Edward Hood

YOU ARE INVITED TO BE AN ALTAR SERVER!!!



If you have made your First Holy Communion, you are invited to attend upcoming Altar Server Training! Of the below nine sessions, you must attend three of them.

If you are a CURRENT Altar Server, you are asked to attend one of the following sessions as a refresher.

While it is best to attend training that is at the church in which you wish to serve, attendance at any of these sessions is acceptable.

St. Mary's on Sunday Mornings after 11 am Mass Training by Laura Conte

March 3rd | March 10th | March 17th

St. John's on Friday Afternoons at 4:30 pm Training by Fr. Fernando

March 8th | March 15th | March 22nd

St. Margaret's on Saturday Afternoons at 12 noon Training by Pam Quinn

March 9th | March 16th March 23rd

To sign up for training, please visit https://bit.ly/49wKxiy or scan the QR Code!



St. Mary Votive Candles

We have quite a few faithful prayers who stop by St. Mary church to light a candle and lift up their intentions to our Lord. Unfortunately, it has become quite an expense to our ministry as those who are trying to help by replacing burned out candles are not doing so correctly. Votive candles at St. Mary are designed to burn for 4 hours, yet when not replaced correctly, they burn out in less than 30 minutes. As a result, we have had to throw away hundreds of dollars worth of candles over the past months. In caring for our resources we want to burn candles to their full 4 hour duration. While we appreciate your eagerness in helping, we ask that you not replace burned out candles. We have a team of trained individuals assigned to this task.



If you wish to help out in this ministry, please call or text Karen at (978) 467-5266. At that point, you will be trained as to how to best assist in the management of our votive candle ministry. Thank you for your cooperation with this request.

Tood 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 66:30pm at St. Mary

Good Friday: Passion of Our Lord | March 29

- Rehearse Monday, March 11 (NOTE NEW DATE) 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
- Mike at stmarymusic@theholyrood.org
- Matt at music@theholyrood.org

FR BRIAN PRESENTS THE

Sacraments

Since October, Fr. Brian has provided us with some solid teaching on the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Reconciliation. Please join him NEXT MONDAY, March 11th where he will continue this series with the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick.

This and all future presentations are **OPEN TO ALL** who are interested in learning more about the importance of the sacraments—holy gifts graced to us by Christ Himself and imparted to us through the Church—and the true power they give to us and our Church.

This evening, as well as the remaining two, will begin at 7 pm at St. Mary Church. You are welcome to attend in person or you can watch via LIVEVIEW. The remaining schedule is as follows:

April 22: Holy Orders & Marriage | May 6: Eucharist

Multiple Mass Weekends

Due to the high number of requests for Mass Intentions on our monthly Multiple Mass Weekend, we have decided to now offer two such weekends per month—the first and third Friday through Sunday.

This option will be available for intentions booked from June 1 through August 31, 2024. Seven intentions per Mass will be allowed. Once we see how this works, we will consider whether or not to continue with this option for the remainder of the calendar year.

You can schedule these intentions beginning Monday, March 18th by calling the Parish Offices.

Paschal Candle Would you like to make a donation towards your church's purchase of this year's Paschal Candle in memory of a loved one? If so

Paschal Candle in memory of a loved one? If so, please complete the following form and drop it into the 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!

\wedge	First and Last Name
	Address
A	Phone Number
+++	In Memory Of Name
$\dot{\Omega}$	Parish St. Mary St. John St. Margaret
	Amt of Donation \$
	In Memory of Names
	will be printed in the Easter Bulletin.

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



generous financial support of our community!

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

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

ST. MARY WEEKLY OFFERTORY	Weekend of February 24th/25th	Fiscal Year-To-Date February 25th	Fiscal YTD Average/Week
Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses	\$14,500	\$507,500	\$14,500
Actual Received	\$10,930	\$476,585	\$13,617
Shortfall/ Overage	-\$3,570	-\$30,915	-\$883
ST. JOHN WEEKLY OFFERTORY	Weekend of February 24th/25th	Fiscal Year-To-Date February 25th	Fiscal YTD Average/Week
Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses	\$10,300	\$360,500	\$10,300
Actual Received	\$8,576	\$306,429	\$8,755
Shortfall/ Overage	-\$1,724	-\$54,071	-\$1,545
ST. MARGARET WEEKLY OFFERTORY	Weekend of February 24th/25th	Fiscal Year-To-Date February 25th	Fiscal YTD Average/Week
Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses	\$4,800	\$168,000	\$4,800
Actual Received	\$3,701	\$157,462	\$4,499
Shortfall/ Overage	-\$1,099	-\$10,538	-\$301
SECOND COLLECTION	St. Mary	St. John	St. Margaret
Catholic Charities: February 18	\$3,150	\$2,307	\$2,219

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



GRAND ANNUAL AS OF FEBRUARY 25TH				
	Goal	Raised	%age of Goal	
St. Mary	\$100,000	\$75,270	75.27%	
St. John	\$70,000	\$41,536	59.34%	
St. Margaret	\$70,000	\$45,019	64.31%	







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



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 or at the Chelmsford Veterans Services office at town hall.



answer: every March they turn over a new leaf!



Lazurus Center for Healing Shrine welcomes Gilbert R. Lavoi, 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

LENTEN NOVENA

The following prayer was written by a member of the ACTS Chapter. Those who prayed this prayers at the recent Chapter Committee Meeting felt a profound sense of spiritual power. It has been requested that it be shared with our collaborative community, and prayed as a Lenten Novena.

Prayer of Release

Heavenly Father,

we release to You the burdens that we've been carrying, burdens that You never intended for us to carry. We cast all our cares upon You—all our worries and all our fears. You have told us not to be anxious about anything, but rather to bring everything to You in prayer with thankfulness.

Father,

calm our restless spirits, quiet our anxious hearts, still our troubling thoughts, with the assurance that You are in control. We let go of our grip upon the things we've been hanging onto, with open hands we come to You. We release to Your will all that we are trying to manipulate; we release to Your authority all that we're trying to control; we release to Your timing all that we've been striving to make happen.

We thank You

for Your promise to sustain us, preserve us, and guard all that we have entrusted to Your keeping. Protect our hearts and minds with Your peace, the peace that surpasses all understanding. Father, may Your will be done in our lives, in Your time, and in Your way.

Amen.

"Let Anyone Who Thirsts, Come to Me"

A Healing Mass for Those Impacted by Divorce & Separation

The Family Life team invites you to an evening of healing...

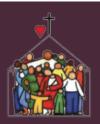
Tuesday, April 30 | 6:30 pm Pastoral Center in Braintree

The evening begins with Confession and Adoration preceding a witness talk from Mark Gioia, a divorced Catholic, followed by the Healing Mass with prayers for all who would like to receive them. All are welcome. We will also be providing resources and information on support available.

Please invite friends and family to attend.

For more information, or to register, please visit: https://bit.ly/3URnbj1

Tamily aith Tormation Uniting the Heart of the Church with the Heart of the Home



MARCH P.L.A.N.S.

PREPARE TO LEARN NEW Stuff 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

Grade 1

The Holy Trinity

parents must attend last 30 minutes of class

Grade 2

In Class... Meeting Jesus in the Mass

At Home... Follow the Blessed First Communion Parent Guide

> parents must attend last 30 minutes of class

Grade 3-6

Families remain in the hall together to learn about Anointing of the Sick

Grade 788

Altaration Session 5... The Why's Behind the What's

Final Parent Session: Parents will meet in the chapel at same time teens are in class in the hall

Confirmation I

Chosen Lesson 6... "Why be Catholic?"

Prayer... Physical Aids for Prayer

Confirmation II

Chosen Lesson 9... "When did My Journey Begin?"

Chosen Lesson 14...
"Why have I been Chosen?"

Prayer... Praying With and For Others

GRADE 1 SUNDAY, MARCH 3

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

GRADE 2 SUNDAY, MARCH 17

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

MARCH CLASS SCHEDULE

GRADE 3-6 | SUNDAY, MARCH 10 | FAMILES GATHER TOGETHER

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

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

GRADE 7&8 SUNDAY, MARCH 3

11:15 AM - 12:45 PM St. Margaret Hall

CONFIRMATION I SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 24

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

CONFIRMATION II SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 17

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

MARCH DEEP DIVES

for details, visithttps://theholyrood.org/deep-dives

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.

Baby Shower (RSVP Required) Sunday, March 16 9:30—11 am | St. Mary SH Hall

Lenten Retreat (see details page 11)
Monday March 18 and Tuesday, March 19
6:30—8 pm | St. Mary Church

Capuchin Mobile Ministry (RSVP Required)
Thursday, March 20 (NOTE DATE CHANGE)
6—8 pm | St. Margaret Church

Youth-Led Stations of the Cross Friday, March 29 | 3 pm | St. Margaret

Soup and Stations

Fridays at 6 pm March 8, 15 22 see page 10 for locations

Scripture and Song

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

Blessing of the Athletes

Saturday, March 23 2:30—4 pm | St. John Hall RSVP Required

Palm Sunday Cantata

Sunday, March 24 3 pm | St. Mary Church

Tenebrae Service

Wednesday, March 27 7 pm | St. Mary Church



My Dear Friends in Christ:

The Catholic Appeal is an exercise of love.

Through the Catholic Appeal, we respond to our call to love God and one another, actively helping others to realize the hope for a better future. For many, the line between hope and despair is thin. The Appeal serves as a tangible sign of our concern for those in need and allows us to bring them the presence of the Lord, to heal brokenness and restore hope. For so very many, our outreach is the light that helps them find a way forward.

Pope Francis often cites St. Paul's call for us not to be complacent or grow weary of doing good. With recognition of the many people who look to us for assistance, now, more than ever, I humbly ask for your support of the Catholic Appeal. This year, I am hopeful that, as a family of faith, we may unite in our involvement because extraordinary participation will have an extraordinary impact for our neighbors in need.

Please know of my gratitude for your generosity and compassion. Together, we affirm our belief that suffering and disappointment can be transformed into new life through the power of our being witnesses and agents of Christ's unconditional love.

Asking God's blessings upon you and all whom you hold dear, I remain,

Devotedly yours in Christ,

Archbishop of Boston

+ Span, Ofmay

EXTRAORDINARY PARTICIPATION creates EXTRAORDINARY IMPACT

As Catholics, we are all called to be stewards of our faith. Every person's gift to the Catholic Appeal unifies our Archdiocese and weaves us together into God's tapestry of care. The urgency of need in our communities is great. Your generosity has an extraordinary impact on the life of the Church and its ability to touch, heal, and serve the thousands of lives in our Archdiocese through programs and ministries such as these:

HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY

Gifts to the Catholic Appeal serve thousands of lives across the Archdiocese through ministries like our hospital chaplaincy programs that bring pastoral care, spiritual guidance, and sacraments to patients and health care workers in dark hours of crisis.

No matter the hour, chaplains bring compassion, support, and love to those who are facing fear, illness, and even death. They minister to staff and strengthen them spiritually as they care for others. They walk with families through times of great joy and great sorrow. They carry a sense of calm and peace into moments of crisis, relying on the power of listening and their quiet presence to communicate Christ's loving companionship, even in the darkest hours.

"We see a lot of trauma incidents. Some nights we may get called 2-5 times to a bedside. We spend time with the patient and family and simply comfort them. And then we use our discretion as to when to leave them alone." — Fr. Ignatius Nze, Hospital Chaplain

Through the Hospital Chaplaincy program, Catholics and non-Catholics experience comfort and grace and come to know that they are not alone.

ARCHDIOCESE of BOSTON

1800+
PREGNANCY
HELP CENTER
REQUESTS
EACH YEAR

65,000 CHAPLAIN PATIENT VISITS

12MEN ADMITTED
TO SEMINARIES
EACH YEAR





PARISH VIBRANCY

The Catholic Appeal fortifies our parishes so that each congregation's unique culture can flourish and grow in vibrancy. Diverse parish ministries and programs foster connectedness where every person can feel a sense of belonging.

"Parishes are families made up of families. And as families, we have to support each other and build each other up so that we can all thrive together. That's what the Catholic Appeal does, in my view – it allows us to help each other thrive.

The Appeal supports us behind the scenes; there are so many things that are hidden, that people don't see when they come to Mass on Sunday. But, if we don't have them, we don't function. We don't thrive."—Fr. Marc Bishop, Pastor of the Catholic Parishes of Arlington

It is in our parishes that our faith comes alive in holiness and happiness, where we share each other's burdens and celebrate the milestones of life. Where the Gospel is proclaimed and where believers are formed. Where we find a continual font of support for our Christian discipleship.

Parishes are communities of mission, purpose, and action; they are the home of our Christian communities and the heart of our Catholic Church.

VOCATIONS

Appeal contributions sustain vocation and youth ministry programs where the next generation is formed and prepared to lead our Church.

Vocations are integral to the life of the Church. Through the Office of Vocations, a new generation of priests and deacons are formed and supported to lead our Church forward in faith. Others are called to joyfully explore the potential of God's call on his or her life and be supported in their prayer and discernment. Gifts to the Appeal are vital in the active promotion of vocations by which each of us learns of God's intricate design on our lives.

"We accompany every year dozens and dozens of men, young and old, who hear that faint question and feel that subtle nudge – 'could Jesus be inviting me to follow after Him, and to love His people, as a priest?' Because of your help, we are able to admit over 12 men to our seminaries every year – where they are formed to become priests who will bring Jesus to you and your families." —Fr. Eric Cadin, Director of Vocations

Through the Office of Vocations, the perpetuation of our Catholic faith finds hope as young men come to hear God's call and follow Him.





Let's move Forward in Faith together with a gift to this year's Catholic Appeal. Help to share Christ's hope and love with all those who seek it.

If you have received Cardinal Seán's letter in the mail and already made your gift or pledge, thank you! If not, there are several ways you can participate in the 2024 Catholic Appeal:

- Use an in-pew envelope and return it to your parish. Most parishes will conduct an in-pew presentation next week during Masses.
- Make an online donation by scanning the code below or visiting bostoncatholicappeal.org/donate-now



For a greater sustained impact, select the recurring gift option. Your monthly donation will continue until you tell us to stop.

- Make a gift through your Donor-Advised Fund using Tax ID #04-2106175 (Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston) and include Catholic Appeal and your home parish in the donation details.
- Make a planned gift in the form of a bequest, stock or property transfer, IRA distribution, or charitable gift annuity.

To learn more, visit **bostoncatholicappeal.org/ways-to-give.** Your gift is tax deductible to the extent permitted by law: Tax ID #04-2106175.





July16 - 19 • Wilmington, DE

Registration NOW Open!

Visit https://theholyrood.org/chwc-registration-form

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: April 26, 2024



This summer, Catholic HEART Workcamp embraces a simple yet powerful theme: recognizing that young people aren't just the Church's future; they are its heartbeat, meant

to live out their faith in the present moment—**HERE & NOW.**

Young people offer the world new energy and perspective, and the Church needs them, **HERE & NOW**. CHWC wants to give teenagers the opportunity to be actively involved in serving others. God desires His transformative power to flow through the hearts of our youth, enabling them to be examples in making the world a better place today.

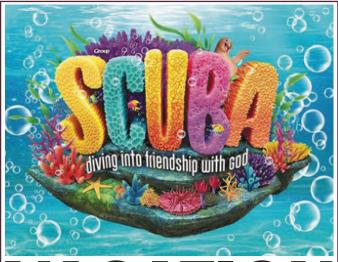
Timothy 4:12 states,

"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity."

Pope Francis has urged young people to embrace their role in the present and the future of the Catholic Church by building relationships with their community and with God.

Young people are called to let their light shine before others so that others may benefit from their good deeds and glorify our Father in heaven. Teens do not have to wait to be active in their faith; CHWC invites them to be involved through acts of kindness and service to those who are in need **HERE & NOW**.

Young hearts are invited to establish habits of prayer, gratitude, service, and faithfulness in Jesus Christ. Join us this summer as we celebrate the youth's enthusiasm, force, and spirit and embrace their call to be servant leaders, not just in the distant tomorrow but **HERE & NOW!**



VACATION BIBLE FUN 2024

July 29—August 2

Registration Opening April. Stay Tuned.

VBF is looking for an adult volunteer who can commit to VBF planning, as well as being present during the week of VBF to take the lead in the crafts and snacks area. Anyone interested in learning more and/or committing, please contact Dawn at stjohnsvbf@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 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

The Elect: As stated last week, our catechumens are now known as 'the Elect,' as they participated in the Rite of Election on February 18. As also stated, the Elect will participate in the three scrutinies. The scrutinies are...

"rites for self-searching and repentance, which are meant to uncover, then heal all this is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of

defective, or sinful in the hearts of the elect; to bring out, then strengthen all that is upright, strong and good. The Scrutinies are celebrated in order to deliver the elect from the power of sin and satan, to protect them against temptation, and to give them strength in Christ, who is the way, the truth, and the life. These rites, therefore, should complete the conversion of the elect and deepen their resolve to hold fast to Christ and to carry out their

The first of these three scrutinies will be celebrated this weekend at the St. John 4 pm Mass. The remaining two will be celebrated at follows:

• March 9th | 4 pm Mass at St. John

decision to love God above all."

March 16th | 4 pm Mass at St. Margaret

Again, please keep the Elect, who will enter into full communion with the Church through the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil—8 pm Mass at St. John on March 30th.



Mach, Jahwaun, Timothy, Brendan and Tyler

We ask that you keep our Confirmandi in prayer as well...

Jesenia, Justin, Michelle and Ria



RITE OF ELECTION

Sunday, February 18: First Sunday of Lent Cathedral of The Holy Cross

The Archdiocese of Boston joined cathedrals throughout the world in holding the Rite of Election for catechumens preparing to be baptized at Easter. According to Cardinal Sean, as he stated in his blog,

"It was the largest group that we've had for the last several years. The cathedral was packed. It was very encouraging to see that... The celebration is always a wonderful opportunity for the catechumens to realize that they are joining not just a parish, but the Universal Church as they gather in the cathedral with hundreds of people from other parishes who were also making the same step to enter the Church at Holy Week."





beginning Ash Wednesday, February 14, ending with the Triduum—beginning March 28th culminating in Easter Joy on March 31st!

SOUP AND STATIONS SCHEDULE

Stations at 6 pm, followed by Soup/Fellowship

March 8 at St. John March 15 at St. Mary March 22 at St. Margaret



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 (below), 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:

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 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

Lenten Scripture and Song for Families Sunday, March 10 | 3:30 pm at St. John Church



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



"Were You There?" | Prayer in Motion

THIS EVENT IS CANCELLED

ANNUAL LENTEN RETREAT

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

due to the hands-on exercises, this event is best experienced in-person.

Presented by Kate Capato Catholic Sacred Art Painter and Inspirational Speaker



Monday's Presentation...

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's Presentation...

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 evenings will be accompanied by live prayerful music performed by her husband, Pawel.

To learn more about Kate's ministry, please visit:

https://www.instagram.com/visualgrace.sacredart/ https://www.facebook.com/VisualGraceKateCapato www.visualgrace.org



Last week we looked at the cleaners—those who would do the work of cleaning up the sins that we create. We began with God who is the author of our salvation. Since God alone can forgive our sins, He was the one to begin with. We then

explored the roles of the Church, the bishop or priest as confessor, and finally the penitent. Each has their own role in making the soul clean and shiny. This week we will continue to see how it all works.

Continuing the analogy of cleaning the soul, it is like cleaning a house. We might want to look at what cleaning products and cleaning tools we would use. The first and most important cleaning product is grace. And that all begins with God; it is his grace that allows the whole process to work. But, for the grace to work in our lives, we must be willing to be both humble and honest with ourselves. Humility and honesty are the next two cleaning products which help our hearts be open to God's grace. Humility helps us to recognize our need for God and our complete dependence on him for any true good to happen in our lives. Honesty is what helps us accept ourselves as sinners and that through grace we can be transformed into the person God wants us to be. Honesty helps us recognize that generally the things I want in life will lead me away from God, and I need God to lead me back to my true self. The final two cleaning products are produced by Christ. They are the Paschal Mystery (Jesus' passion and death, his resurrection, and his ascension into heaven) and the Blood of Christ. The Paschal Mystery is the very means of our salvation. Christ came for one reason only-to save us from our sins. accomplished this through the Paschal Mystery. As Jesus consented to his own death, He did so with the most powerful words, "Not my will, but yours." This very act of complete self-emptying, humility, and obedience marked the way of salvation. Each of the sacraments in their own way helps us to experience the Paschal Mystery—to encounter and experience our salvation in and through Christ. Part of that experience is the Blood of Christ which was poured out on the cross to make the whole sacramental system work. The reality is that all the sacraments are God's gift to us, to ensure our ability to encounter Christ in a unique way and experience his saving works in our lives. The Sacrament of Penance is no different.

We follow this up with looking at our cleaning tools. Sin essentially ruptures all of our relationships, and only God can fix the damage we create through our sinful actions. God calls us to cooperate with Him in bringing about the needed transformation through a contrition of heart. Contrition is not only about true sorrow for our sins. An essential element of true contrition is about re-centering our lives in Christ. It is about rejecting that which draws us away from living

out our baptismal promises. The necessity of confessing our sins, therefore, is not about psychological healing or simply letting go of our sins. It is more about the willingness of one to face what he or she has done and acknowledge that it has affected not only themselves, but the whole community. But, most fundamentally, it has also in some way hurt the person's relationship with God. Contrition, in a sense, comes as two tools: perfect and imperfect contrition. Either one of these works for bringing about forgiveness of sins. Imperfect contrition is when we are truly sorry for what we have done, but out of a fear of the consequences. This kind of contrition is real and complete and God accepts it. But perfect contrition is better: we are truly sorry for what we have done simply out of love for God. Contrition leads us to take up our broom of confessing our sins.

Confession of sins is about trying to sweep ourselves clean of all we have done that is leading us away from God. It is hard to do but that is part of the point. Sin is easy; repentance is hard. Confession is acknowledging in a concrete and human way that 'I am a sinner.' It is part of the human dimension of the sacrament. And when we are open and honest about what we have done, that will lead our heart to want to grow in true Christian conversion.

It is this desire for conversion that opens us to take up the duster of penance or satisfaction. We cannot make up for our sins: that is impossible. But when we take on the penance that is given to us, we are essentially saying, "I am rejecting my former way of life and desire to begin anew. I want Christ to wash me clean in order to help me live out my baptismal calling in a deeper and real way." This act of humility leads us to absolution.

Absolution is sort of the sponge. It does not forgive us; rather, it is the Church's role in loosening us from our sins. The Church says, "The community no longer holds you bound for what you have done, and asks God to forgive you for your offenses." God alone forgives sins but desires the community to be part of the process. And this is how the Church cooperates with God.

Now we need to understand how the cleaners, the cleaning products, and cleaning tools all work together to make a shiny, clean soul. We will look at the process of cleaning next week. 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.

Fi Bi

From our Faith Formation Program Administrator

Elaine Kindler

Be Changed!

I recently came across an article written by Father Andrew Nelson, published in the March/April 2024 issue of "Parable" (the Magazine of the Diocese of Manchester). He tells an inspiring story of his parish's Holy Triduum experience in 2023.

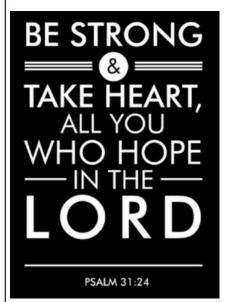
Fr. Nelson challenged everyone in the parish to attend all Holy Week and Sacred Triduum services. He challenged them—instead of focusing on giving something up for Lent—to rather commit their time away from everything else in order to attend the services, to truly walk with Jesus.

The parish responded so enthusiastically that there was standing room only for the Triduum services. He says, "Jesus was so very close to us and we were close to him one cannot walk with Jesus and be unchanged."

This resonated with me, echoing several thoughts from February's 'Magnificat:'

- "If we say that God is really the ruler of all the earth, and all earthly authorities, we must ask ourselves whom we honor and why, whom we praise and why, whom we obey and why." Fr. Sebastian White, OP
- "Throughout our life, our soul's choice for God has to be continually renewed and deepened with the help of grace." - Fr. Donald Hagerty
- "Others = Jesus.' Applying this equation in my own life would make me a collaborator of love forever."
 - Venerable Francis Xavier Nguyên Van Thuân

If we walk with Jesus, if we claim to be his disciples, we have to change—and continue to be changed, with the Holy Spirit's guidance and grace. Imagine being known as a collaborator of God's love!



Here we are, beginning the third week of Holy Lent. It's not too late to find your way to walking with Jesus, to be close to him as he moves closer to the Cross, to not turn away for a moment during the Sacred Triduum.

Let's pray for each other that we are able to be changed and that every day we make our choice to walk with Jesus in how we live our lives. God bless you.

From our Parochial Vicar

Fr. Fernando Ayala

Suffering Can only Bring Glory

For a Christian, life is not empty of suffering. The Christian faith does not offer a life without the cross. In fact, our faith tells us to embrace our cross-embrace our suffering. Christ teaches us that we must pick up our cross and follow Him. He never promised us a life without suffering here on earth—a life without the cross. On the contrary. He teaches us to give it value. He teaches us to give suffering a meaning. He wants our cross to be the means by which we reach the resurrection. It is only with Him, through Him, and in Him that the cross leads to the resurrection. It is with Christ that death brings life. Only with our Lord can suffering bring glory. He does not take away our suffering, but makes it worthwhile—He makes it redemptive—He transforms suffering into something more beautiful.

Think for instance about the following... You are going to hike up a big mountain. Lets call this mountain the 'mountain of sin' or the 'mountain of suffering.' You get your hiking equipment ready and you set out to conquer this mountain. At some points you feel like you will not make it. You stop—you rest—and you continue on. Sometimes you wonder if you will ever make it to the top! Sometimes you wonder if all of this struggle is worth it, yet you finally make it. The view is beautiful! You can see the clouds, feel the breeze, and smell the unpolluted fresh air. You take in the beautiful view. You realize that the struggle was worth it, even when it felt like it was not. It is only when God allows us to conquer the mountain of our sins in Heaven that we realize the hike was worth it. He transformed our hike into a beautiful view.

Some of us may still be stuck at the bottom of this mountain. Some of us may be in the middle of it, maybe wondering if all of this is worth it. Others may be close to the top.

Where are you on this journey? Have you set out yet? Where is your equipment?

Look at that mountain, pick up your equipment, and follow through. A beautiful view awaits you.

Mass Intentions

St. John the Evangelist

4 pm Month's Mind: Jeanne O'Brien SAT, MAR 2 **MEMORIAL:** The Moran Family

ANNIVERSARY: Rosetta De Vita (1st), Mary Frances

Shipko (1st)

Sun, Mar 3 930 am Memorial: Mauricio Valencia

ANNIVERSARY: Norman Reynolds (20th)

6 pm People of the Parish

Mon, Mar 4 9 am Collaborative Members

of the Spiritual Society and Renewal Fund

Tue, Mar 5 9 am William Delaney: Memorial

WED, MAR 6 9 am Mary Shipko: Memorial THU, MAR 7 9 am Valerie Ouellette: Memorial

FRI, MAR 8 9 am Charles and Gertrude Cavalier: Memorial

SAT, MAR 9 4 pm People of the Parish

Sun. Mar 10 930 am Matthew P Cox: 2nd Anniversary

6 pm LIVING INTENTION: Healing for Richard Howe, Sr

St. Margaret of Scotland

SAT, MAR 2 4 pm Memorial: Jack Kelley, Jean Krystof

LIVING INTENTION: Andy Alvaraz

ANNIVERSARY: Blanche Beninati (20th), Rose Marie

L'Heureux: (14th)

730 am People of the Parish Sun, Mar 3

> MEMORIAL: Stephen J Gilbride, Elaine Holland, 10 am

> > Carey Eithel Posey

ANNIVERSARY: Nancy Desmond (1st), Elizabeth Ann

St. Peter (5th)

8 am James D Scanlon: 5th Anniversary Mon, Mar 4 8 am Sheila Sweeney: Month's Mind TUE, MAR 5

THU, MAR 7 8 am Jack Bomil: Memorial

Fri, Mar 8 8 am LIVING INTENIOTN: Healing for Peggy Cloutier

SAT, MAR 9 4 pm Robert Zaim: 9th Anniversary

Sun, Mar 10 730 am Eric Patel: Memorial

St. Mary Parish

Sun, Mar 10

SAT, MAR 2 4 pm **MEMORIAL**: Charles Martin Brightly, Louise LaChance,

O'Neil LeBlanc, Alice Martin, John MacGilvray, Kathleen Frances Mulholland, Robert Edward Noreika

ANNIVERSARY: Anna DeForte (2nd), Mildred J LaRock (7th),

Priscilla M Quinn (6th), Jean Scholl (6th)

Sun, Mar 3 7 am People of the Parish

11 am **Memorial**: Salvatore and Josephine Russo

ANNIVERSARY: Katherine Taylor (4th)

Mon, Mar 4 7 am Deceased Members of the Albin A Hastbacka Family

Tue, Mar 5 7 am Michael Joseph Larkin: 1st Anniversary

FRI, MAR 8 7 am Judith McPhee: 10th Anniversary

SAT, MAR 9 4 pm Angelo Conti: 43rd Anniversary 7 am People of the Parish

11 am Christopher L Gambon: 38th Anniversary

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



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 Phyllis A Durkin

St. John Sanctuary Lamp

In Memory of Joseph E Colbert



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.

> In Memory of Rose Marie L'Heroux 14th Anniversary

Missal Memorial

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-lovedone 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.

> **Stephen Jude Griffin** Friday, March 1 • St. Margaret

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Michael Coppa Recent Funeral at St. John's Jeanne O'Brien of North Chelmsford, MA Scan to read Jeanne's obituary.











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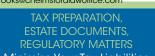
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