



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 10, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Lent

For every who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed. But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.

- John 3: 20-21



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 11

Bible Study • 10 - 11:45 am • SM PC Conf Room 1
 Confession • 4:30 - 5:30 pm • SJE Church
 Good Friday Music Rehearsal • 6:30 - 8:30 pm • SMS Church
 Sacraments Presentation • 7 pm • SM Church

Tuesday, March 12

Coffee Group and BP Check, following 9 am Mass • SJE Hall
 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
 Rosary • 7 pm • SM Church and LIVEVIEW

Wednesday, March 13

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
 Youth Choir Rehearsal • 4:45 - 5:45 pm • SM Hall
 The Light is on For You Confession • 6:30 - 8 pm • All Churches
 Troop 77 Scout Meeting • 7 - 8:30 pm • SM Hall
 Rosary • 7 pm • SM Church and LIVEVIEW

Thursday, March 14

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
 Pre-Pilgrimage Gathering • 7 - 9 pm • SMS SH Hall
 SM 11 am Choir/Ensemble Rehearsal • 7:30 - 8:30 pm • SM Church

Friday, March 15

Health Screening, following 8 am Mass • SMS SH Hall
 Knitting and Crocheting • 2 - 4 pm • SM Hall
 Altar Server Training • 4:30 - 5:30 pm • SJE Church
 Stations of the Cross, followed by Soup • 6 pm • SM Church

Saturday, March 16

Confessions • refer to cover
 Men of St Joseph • 7:30 - 9 am • SMS Hall
 Contemplation Group • 9:30 - 11 am • ZOOM
 Respect Life Baby Shower • 9:30 - 11:30 am • SMS SH Hall
 Altar Server Training • 12 - 1 pm • SMS Church
 St. Mary Bell Choir • 2:30 - 3:30 pm • SM Choir Loft
 St. Patrick's Dinner • 5 pm • SJE Hall

Sunday, March 17

Prayer Shawl Ministry • 9:30 - 11:30 am • SJE OPC
 Health Screening, following 10 am Mass • SMS SH Hall
 Family Mass • 11 am Mass • SM Church
 Altar Server Training • 12 - 1 pm • SM Church
 African Community General Mtg • 1:30 - 3 pm • SJE OPC
 Holy Hour /Music • 3:30 - 4:30 pm • SM Church

The St. Mary Table Ministry served

40 in March



Holy Hour

NEXT SUNDAY | 3:30 - 4:30 | St. Mary
 Celebrant and Confessor: Fr. Fernando
 Music: St. Mary Music Ministry

Mass Attendance

Weekend of March 2nd/3rd

St. Mary		
4 pm	7 am	11 am
235	128	245

St. Margaret of Scotland		
4 pm	7:30 am	10 am
95	64	235

St. John the Evangelist			
4 pm	9:30 am	12 pm	6 pm
178	216	50	170



What is the most common reason for a visit to the doctor in March?

(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



facilities update

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

If you come across any issues with any of our facilities, please reach out to Chris.

If you choose to email, please write FACILITIES ISSUE in the subject line.

Our focus at all three parishes continues to be set-ups and winter maintenance. Outside of that the following is a summary of the larger projects at each church.

St. Mary

- We are looking for the source of a leak in the single bathroom in the parish hall
- The garage has been reorganized to better allow ministries in and out with ease the heat in the rectory has been repaired after a cascading issue with several components in the system
- The projector in the church is broken and is due to be replaced during the first week of April
- All door lock upgrades have been completed

St. Margaret of Scotland

- Repairs have been made after a pipe froze downstairs and new measure were taken to prevent future floods
- The sound system in the chapel has been repaired after a failed component
- The mount on the LIVEVIEW camera in the main church was replaced
- We are working with Comcast regarding continual internet issues and the possible replacement of equipment
- The flag's hoist was replaced and a new flag has been flown
- All door lock upgrades have been completed

St. John the Evangelist

- We are currently weighing our options for repairing or replacing the heating system as one of our boilers is broken
- Door lock upgrades have been installed, but there is a known issue with one of the handicap doors and is on the list to be repaired
- The door to the Old Parish Center is repaired
- Clutter removal is moving along
- We have removed a lot of old metal and out-of-date chemicals
- The flag outside the Old Parish Center has been replaced

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.

here's what's happening in The Holy

The second of the three scrutinies will be celebrated at the St. Margaret 4 pm Mass THIS SATURDAY, March 9th. The final scrutiny will be celebrated at the St. John 4 pm NEXT Saturday, March 16th.

Please continue to pray for 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**

—as well as our Confirmandi—

Jesenia, Justin, Michelle and Ria

Strength in Numbers

God created us to be community; to be in communion with others. We need others. We need conversation and touch. We need to feel connected.

As we are just about half-way through Lent, we thought it a good idea to check in with you to see how you are doing. Is your spiritual tank full or empty? Are you making progress or do you feel stagnant, sidetracked or distracted? Have you tried a new prayer practice that is fulfilling? We would love to hear from anyone who would like to briefly share their journey. You might have an idea that will lift up someone who is discouraged; you might have a practice that will encourage someone to go deeper; you may be the recipient of words that need to be heard. Either way, the goal of this 'sharing' is to feel connected to your community.

To share, visit <https://theholyrood.org/strength-in-numbers>. You may share your name (first name, last initial only) or be completely anonymous. Again, the goal is simply to connect with others in our community!

Over the next few weeks, we will post your responses in the bulletin.

Be assured of our prayers for you as you continue on this journey towards our Risen Lord on Easter.

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! Below is the schedule of remaining sessions. You must attend three in total.

If you are a CURRENT Altar Server, you are asked to attend one session 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 10th | March 17th

St. John's on Friday Afternoons at 4:30 pm
Training by Fr. Fernando
March 15th | March 22nd

St. Margaret's on Saturday Afternoons at 12 noon
Training by Pam Quinn
March 16th | March 23rd

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



Membership Drive Weekend



The Bishop Ruocco Council 9275 Knights of Columbus serving Chelmsford, Littleton and Westford will be holding a Membership Drive at **St. Mary Church NEXT WEEKEND, March 16th/17th.**

When you become a member of our council, you will find that Knights of Columbus membership brings Catholic men together in a powerful way.

If you would like to join today simply go to KofC.org/ join and enter our council # 9275 for the Preferred Local Council.

Rood Collaborative community

Wednesday, March 20.6 - 8 pm
St. Margaret Chapel and Sacred Heart Hall

Back by popular demand! The Capuchins will be back to visit with us. Join them, alongside fellow parishioners, and learn more about this ministry and how and why they serve! A service project to support this ministry will be done as part of this evening.



SPIRITUAL RESOURCES
FOR THE STREET

Capuchin Mobile Ministries is a ministry of spiritual caregiving to the homeless community in Greater Boston. Several times a week, friars and volunteers head out in their well-recognized van to areas where the homeless

congregate. They provide food and drink, offer spiritual resources and referrals to social services, listen to their stories, and pray with them.

IMPORTANT TO NOTE:

The Capuchins are asking for donations of socks (new, packs of any kind, any number), items of spiritual care (new or gently used rosaries, spiritual cards, etc.) and goodwill financial donations to help provide for the ministry's physical and financial needs. **Please bring your donation(s) with you on the evening of the event!** Thank you, in advance, for your generosity!

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, 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!



First and Last Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

In Memory Of Name _____

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>

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 THIS MONDAY, March 11th where he will continue this series with the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick.**

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

the Financial Page

Paul Firicano, Business Manager
(978) 256-2374, ext 220

Fiscal Year 2024: July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

To view this and ALL past financial reports, visit
www.theholyrood.org; click on the stewardship tab

IMPORTANT REMINDER TO DONORS

If you make your offertory or any other donation via check, it is extremely important that the check is made payable to the specific parish—St. John the Evangelist, St. Margaret of Scotland, or St. Mary—to which you are making your donation, as each parish maintains their own financial entity. Checks made out to The Holy Rood Collaborative cannot be cashed as The Holy Rood Collaborative is NOT a financial entity. To eliminate your need to re-write a new check, and to allow timely processing of your donation, please be sure to make note of this directive. As always, thank you for your generous financial support of our community!

ST. MARY WEEKLY OFFERTORY	Weekend of March 2nd/3rd	Fiscal Year-To-Date March 3rd	Fiscal YTD Average/Week
Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses	\$14,500	\$522,000	\$14,500
Actual Received	\$13,758	\$490,343	\$13,621
Shortfall/ Overage	-\$742	-\$31,657	-\$879

ST. JOHN WEEKLY OFFERTORY	Weekend of March 2nd/3rd	Fiscal Year-To-Date March 3rd	Fiscal YTD Average/Week
Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses	\$10,300	\$370,800	\$10,300
Actual Received	\$7,815	\$314,244	\$8,729
Shortfall/ Overage	-\$2,485	-\$56,556	-\$1,571

ST. MARGARET WEEKLY OFFERTORY	Weekend of March 2nd/3rd	Fiscal Year-To-Date March 3rd	Fiscal YTD Average/Week
Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses	\$4,800	\$172,800	\$4,800
Actual Received	\$6,494	\$163,956	\$4,554
Shortfall/ Overage	\$1,694	-\$8,844	-\$246

SECOND COLLECTION	St. Mary	St. John	St. Margaret
Church Around the World: February 25	\$2,474	\$2,043	\$1,957

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

thank you

GRAND ANNUAL AS OF FEBRUARY 25TH

	Goal	Raised	%age of Goal
St. Mary	\$100,000	\$75,405	75.41%
St. John	\$70,000	\$42,186	60.27%
St. Margaret	\$70,000	\$45,019	64.31%

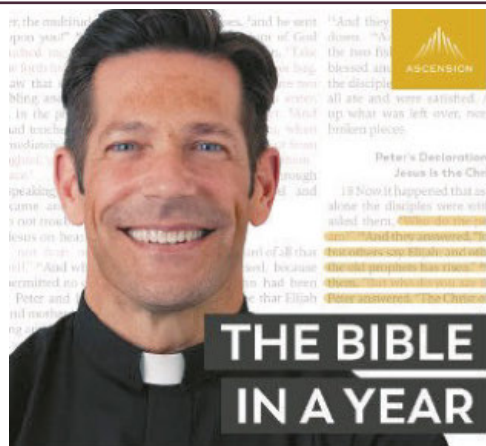


Visit our website and click on the appropriate Parish online giving logo located at the bottom of the homepage.

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.



In The Bible in a Year podcast, Fr. Mike Schmitz guides you through the entire Bible in 365 episodes!

Using an exclusive

reading plan rooted in The Bible Timeline (a ground-breaking approach to understand salvation history developed by Biblical scholar Jeff Cavins), you won't just read the Bible... you will finally understand how all the pieces fit together to tell an amazing story that continues in your life today!

By listening to this podcast, you will...

- read the entire bible in 365 days
- Understand the story of Salvation
- Experience the transformative power of God's Word in your life

Each daily episode runs about 20-25 minutes, making it easy to listen to for your own personal listening, with your family, or with a small group.

You can listen on a computer or download the Ascension App on your mobile device by visiting the following website:

<https://media.ascensionpress.com/category/ascension-podcast/bibleinayear>

From this site, you can also request the 365 reading plan be emailed to you!



The Catechism tells us it is a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the deceased. With that in mind, we will be affixing labels to the covers of our missals bearing the inscription "Please Pray for the Soul of **YOUR LOVED ONE'S NAME.**" This will inspire others to pray for your loved one every time they are in church. The missals

will be rotated around the church on a quarterly basis until the end of the liturgical year: Advent 2024. We have begun placing these Missals in the churches.

If you would like to remember your loved one in this way, you can do so by submitting the below form, along with a minimum donation of \$100 per missal memorial. If you choose to make your request online, please visit <https://theholyrood.org/remember-a-loved-one> and click on the 'missal memorial' tab. You also have the ability to pay online as well.

If you prefer to write a check, please make it payable to the parish to which you are donating and **note MISSAL DONATION along with the name of your loved one on the memo line.** Your check, along with the completed form, can be mailed to the parish offices, ATTN: Paul Firicano/ Missal Memorial. Or you can place them in an envelope addressed to Paul Firicano/Missal Memorial and drop it into the offertory, any of our secure black drop boxes, or in person to the parish offices.

Questions? (978) 254-4406.

Missal Memorial

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF

(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

CHURCH (PLEASE SELECT ONE)

- ☐ St. Mary Parish
- ☐ St. Margaret of Scotland
- ☐ St. John the Evangelist

CONTACT NAME AND PHONE NUMBER

☐ payment enclosed [check # _____]



Family Faith Formation

Uniting the Heart of the Church with the Heart of the Home



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

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 7&8

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

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

MARCH CLASS SCHEDULE

GRADE 3-6 | SUNDAY, MARCH 10 | FAMILIES 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 2 SUNDAY, MARCH 17

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

CONFIRMATION I SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 24

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

CONFIRMATION II SUNDAY, MARCH 17

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

MARCH DEEP DIVES

for details, visit <https://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)

Saturday, March 16
9:30—11 am | St. Margaret 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)

Wednesday, 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 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. Mary Hall
RSVP Required

Palm Sunday Cantata

Sunday, March 24
3 pm | St. Mary Church

Tenebrae Service

Wednesday, March 27
7 pm | St. Mary Church



July 16 - 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.

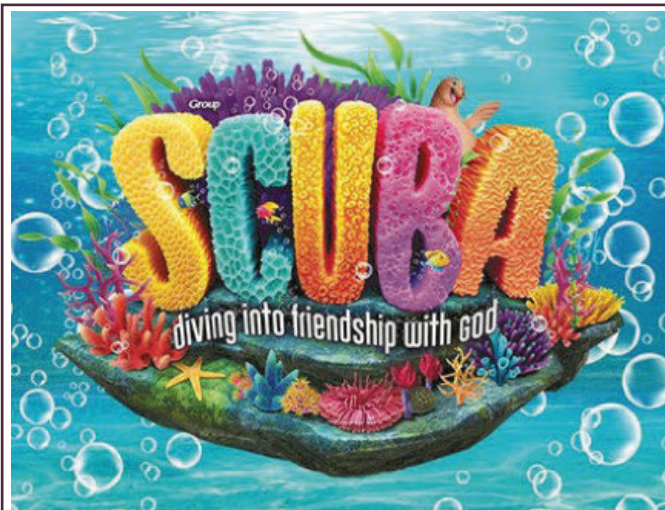
Timothy 4:12 states,

“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 a couple of adult volunteers who can commit to VBF pre-planning and attendance during the week of VBF to take the lead in the crafts and snacks areas. Anyone interested in learning more and/or committing, please contact Dawn at stjohnsvbf@theholyrood.org.

FAITH FORMATION REGISTRATION

OPENING APRIL 1ST

Stay Tuned...

2024 Lent Retreat

Presented by Kate Capato
Catholic Sacred Art Painter & Inspirational Speaker



Monday, March 18 and Tuesday, March 19 | 6:30 pm | St. Mary Church
due to the hands-on exercises, this event is best experienced in-person

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.

Artist Bio

Kate Capato, Visual Grace, is a Catholic sacred art painter and speaker rooted in the tradition of the faith. She creates oil paintings inspired by prayer and the truths of our faith and is greatly influenced by the Renaissance masters due to her gifted time studying in Florence Italy.

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.

Kate is available to create new works for your churches, communities, and homes—including travelling world wide to you—to share the faith through beauty.

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

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

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.





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!

SOUP AND STATIONS SCHEDULE

Stations at 6 pm, followed by Soup/Fellowship

March 15 at St. Mary

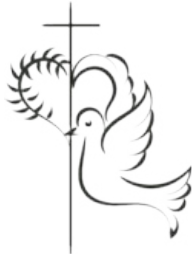
March 22 at St. Margaret

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 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

Palm Sunday Cantata

Sunday, March 24

3 pm at St. Mary Church



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SUNDAY

Wednesday, March 27

Tenebrae | 7 pm | St. Mary Church

Holy Thursday, March 28

Morning Prayer | 9 am at St. Margaret

Mass of the Lord's Supper | 7 pm at St. Mary

Good Friday, March 29

Morning Prayer | 9 am at St. John

Youth Station of the Cross | 3 pm at St. Margaret

Passion of Our Lord | 7 pm at St. Margaret

Holy Saturday, March 30

Morning Prayer | 9 am at St. Mary

Easter Vigil | 8 pm at St. John

Easter Sunday, March 31

Mass Schedule

St. John | 9:30 am and 12 pm African Liturgy

St. Margaret | 7:30 and 10 am

St. Mary | 7 am and 11 am

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.





Last week we explored both the cleaning products and cleaning tools used in the Sacrament of Penance. The cleaning products that come from God are: grace, the Paschal Mystery (Jesus' passion and death, resurrection, and ascension), and the blood of Christ, combined with the human dimension of humility, honesty and openness to God. The tools are the very structure of the sacrament: contrition, confession, satisfaction/penance, and absolution. These all work together to help the penitent attain a clean and shiny soul. We will now explore how it all happens.

As we explore the unfolding reality of the sacrament, we will come to understand how reconciliation occurs and what is necessary for true forgiveness of sin. This is the cleaning process that leads us to having a shiny, clean soul. The first and most essential action is that of contrition. The person must have true sorrow for what they have done that has harmed their relationship with God, others, creation, and self. They humble themselves and accept responsibility for their sins; this happens when they stop blaming others for their actions. They become honest with themselves and with God about the motivations and attitudes that led them to act as they did. Rather than acting like Adam and Eve and blaming someone else for their actions, they take complete responsibility. But it is also essential to understand how this contrition comes about.

Contrition comes about by an act of grace. God touches our hearts to call us back to a whole and healthy relationship with Him. At some level we feel guilt for the wrong we have done, and that sense of guilt is God acting in our lives. We are called to a life of conversion—of seeking the truth of Christ more fully in our lives—and that opens us to the desire to confess the wrong we have done. We must always recognize that our actions have impacted the community of faith, and so we want to bring healing by confessing our sins to a representative of the community. The bishop or priest is the representative assigned by Christ to act in the name of the Church. The penitent brings him/herself to the bishop or priest and privately confesses their sins. This confession of sins is a sign of the individual's contrition and speaks to their desire to be in union with God.

The confessor then assigns a penance. The purpose of the penance is *not* to make up to God for the wrong we have done. Rather, it is intended to bring about satisfaction, by leading the penitent deeper into their life of conversion—through God's grace and their humility—to both accept and fulfill their penance. It is meant to help the person move away from, or break, the desires that may lead them back into sin. In this moment they open more fully to the Paschal Mystery and allow themselves to seek to live as one saved by Christ.

Then absolution is granted and the Church no longer holds the person responsible for the sins they have committed. The Church acts as Christ to direct the penitent's heart to be more focused on their life with Christ. If truly contrite, the person is forgiven by God and washed clean by the blood of Christ. Their sins are no

longer a part of them for they have rejected them and embraced Christ. This leads to true reconciliation with God.

The Sacrament of Penance is the primary way we receive forgiveness of sins after baptism, and it is necessary where grave actions are concerned. We do not have to go to the sacrament for a venial sin, but we must for a mortal sin; however it is a good practice to make use of the sacrament even for venial sins. The reason is really simple: confessing venial sins helps us recognize that every choice we make impacts our relationships, and when our choices have a negative consequence, only God can truly fix things. The act of confessing our sins depends on the humility of the penitent, not *only* to acknowledge the wrongdoing but to also give voice to it. Because the priest acts *in persona Christi* (in the person of Christ), he allows the individual to recognize that Christ is here with them as they seek to be healed of sin. This is a privileged encounter in which the penitent knows he/she will not be judged and what they say can never be revealed. For the Church, the seal of confession is inviolable. The confessional is therefore a sanctuary that allows for complete and total honesty about a person's life in connection with Christ. The more we make use of this sanctuary the deeper our lives in Christ can grow. This growth occurs in a two-fold way: through humble contrition and confession of our sins, we are led to the cross of Christ. As Christ heals us of our sins, He washes us clean by his blood and takes away the sins, thus making us whole once again. The forgiveness that Christ offers us through the sacrament is *not* one of simply forgetting our sins, but permanently removing them. By this act, Christ returns us to a life of grace centered in Him.

The sacrament, then, is centered on restoring and renewing our life of baptism. We come to this sacrament to experience the unconditional love and mercy of God. It does not matter the sin, the number of times we have done something, or how often we return to the sacrament. Our God is simply waiting for us to return in order to restore us to his life of grace. Our God only wants what is best for us. Our God only desires to lead us to a life of salvation. We do not always make the right choices since we have the propensity to sin (called concupiscence). Yes, in baptism Original Sin was removed from us, but unfortunately sin continues to impact us. And God in his mercy has given us, through Christ, this great gift of the Sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation. He will never stop loving us and will give us whatever we need to return to living our lives in accord with his will. The only question that really needs to be answered is: will we take advantage of what God has given us? Will we allow God to always give us that clean and shiny soul?

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

From our Faith Formation Associate

Shaun Bradley

“Father, forgive them, they know not what they do.”

- Luke 23:34

Last year (2023) was hard for me, because for the first time in a long time I was struggling with forgiveness. I couldn't figure out how to move on, how to move forward with all the anger and resentments I was carrying. I couldn't just forget about it or pretend everything was fine. It was affecting the way I thought of those people, the way I acted around them, and it was even affecting people who had nothing to do with it; they had to face a version of me bogged down by so many negative emotions. Eventually, through the help of a pair of Catholic speakers, I found what I had been missing: in order to forgive someone, you have to acknowledge that a wrong was committed.

No matter what you think of the person, even if they are family or a dear friend, this has to be the first step. If you want to forgive them, you have to start by admitting that they did in fact wrong you. This seems obvious until you actually do it. Because of how highly we might think of these people, we may not want to ascribe fault to them, especially in our hyper-critical culture. But in order to forgive them, in order to heal both ourselves and the relationship, we have to acknowledge the wrong that was done—the very thing that needs forgiving. Until you do that, you will wallow in self-doubt, trying to determine if you are somehow at fault for what happened, or if you are somehow overreacting to what they did. For me, my healing could not begin until I said “Yes, they did hurt me.” Regardless of what you think of the person, even if you think (or know) that they have your best interest at heart, you still have to admit that they hurt you. That's not a knock against them, that's not a criticism, that's not a grievous character defect. It does not make them a bad person; it makes them human.

Our Lord had to acknowledge this too. He had to say that he was wounded by the people who were crucifying him, the people who were mocking him, and the people who abandoned him. He admitted to the Father that they were actively hurting him because he knew this was the only path to healing and forgiveness. In a bigger sense, this is part of the reason why the Cross was necessary. He couldn't say (and still can't say) “Everything's good, no worries, it's not a big deal.” The Cross is God's way of saying that sin is real, and it does truly damage our relationship with him. Beyond that, the Cross is his way of forgiving us for that wound. Our sins, both venial and mortal, hurt him every bit as much as the crucifixion. The Cross is his way of saying “You did hurt me, but I forgive you anyway.” And so, we must learn from the One who is forgiveness himself. Forgiveness starts when we acknowledge that we were hurt.

From our Sr Priest in Residence

Fr. Arold Colletti

Narcissism

Narcissism has become a modern epidemic. The term ‘narcissism’ originated more than 2,000 years ago, when Ovid wrote the legend of Narcissus. He tells the story of a beautiful Greek hunter who, one day, happens to see his reflection in a pool of water and falls in love with it. He becomes obsessed with its beauty and is unable to leave his reflected image until he dies. After his death, the flower narcissus grew where he lay.

Olivia Remes writes: “Narcissism can represent healthy self-love and confidence that is based on real achievement, the ability to overcome setbacks and derive the support needed from social ties. Unhealthy narcissists often portray an image of grandiosity or overconfidence to the world, but this is only to cover up deep feelings of insecurity and a fragile self-esteem that is easily bruised by the slightest criticism. Because of these traits, narcissists find themselves in shallow relationships that only serve to satisfy their constant need for attention.”

The past few decades have witnessed a social shift from a commitment to the family and community to a focus on the individual, or the self. The self-esteem movement was an important turning point in this shift. It determined that self-esteem was the key to success in life. Parents kept telling their children how special and unique they were, to make them feel more confident. They wanted to confer self-esteem upon their children, rather than letting them achieve it through hard work.

It is essential that the journey from immaturity to maturity is a sort of movement from narcissism to connection with family and community. So maybe it's time to take a break from the smartphone, shut off your computer, and meet up with friends. Maybe you might feel a little better, and boost your self-esteem.

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 and a 2-week notice is required.



St. John the Evangelist

SAT, MAR 9	4 pm	People of the Parish
SUN, MAR 10	930 am	Matthew P Cox: 2nd Anniversary
	12 pm	LIVING INTENTION: Thanksgiving for Adobi Ochijeh surviving a car accident
	6 pm	LIVING INTENTION: Healing for Richard Howe, Sr
MON, MAR 11	9 am	Lucille Fortier: Memorial
TUE, MAR 12	9 am	Fernand and Joseph Sevigny: Memorial
WED, MAR 13	9 am	Hazel and John King: Wedding Anniversary Memorial
THU, MAR 14	9 am	LIVING INTENTION: Healing for Lorraine and Kathy Growney
FRI, MAR 15	9 am	Missionaries of Ukraine
SAT, MAR 16	4 pm	Brian Muscato: Birthday Memorial
SUN, MAR 17	930 am	People of the Parish
	6 pm	John Ryan: 5th Anniversary

St. Margaret of Scotland

SAT, MAR 9	4 pm	Robert Zaim: 9th Anniversary
SUN, MAR 10	730 am	Eric Patel: Memorial
	10 am	People of the Parish
MON, MAR 11	8 am	Vincent Latham: Memorial
TUE, MAR 12	8 am	LIVING INTENTION: Healing for Fred Webster
WED, MAR 13	8 am	Nancy Picanso: 1st Anniversary
THU, MAR 14	8 am	Magee Murphy: Memorial
FRI, MAR 15	8 am	Maria Kozobolis LeMay: Birthday Memorial
SAT, MAR 16	4 pm	People of the Parish
SUN, MAR 17	730 am	John, Margaret, Patrick, John Jr and Daniel Donovan: Memorial
	10 am	Donald McQueen: 5th Anniversary

St. Mary Parish

SAT, MAR 9	4 pm	Angelo Conti: 43rd Anniversary
SUN, MAR 10	7 am	People of the Parish
	11 am	Christopher L Gambon: 38th Anniversary
MON, MAR 11	7 am	Anthony "Jim" Temmallo: Memorial
TUE, MAR 12	7 am	LIVING INTENTION: Healing for Ethan Clay
WED, MAR 13	7 am	Catherine Frink: Memorial
THUR, MAR 14	7 am	Rev Arnold Kelley: 4th Anniversary
SAT, MAR 16	4 pm	People of the Parish
SUN, MAR 17	7 am	LIVING INTENTION: John-Sylvanus Ofosu Boateng First Birthday
	11 am	Robert Parker: 5th 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.

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-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.



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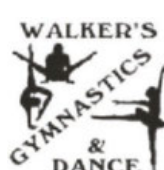
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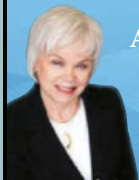
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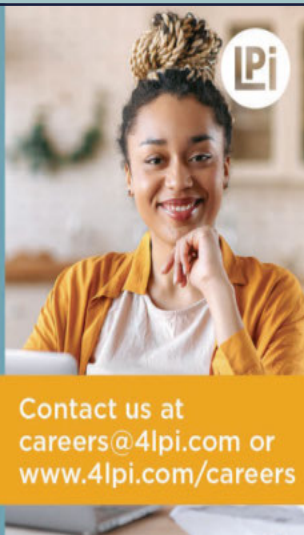
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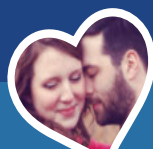


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