



ST. JOHN  
THE EVANGELIST PARISH  
115 MIDDLESEX STREET  
NORTH CHELMSFORD

ST. MARGARET  
OF SCOTLAND PARISH  
374 STEVENS STREET  
LOWELL

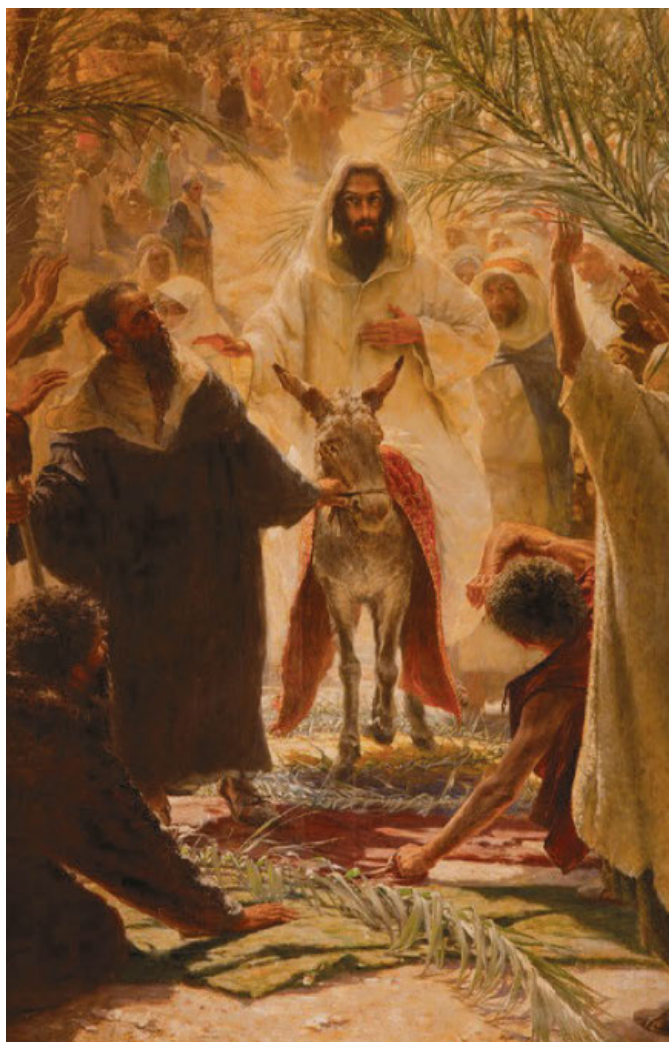
ST. MARY PARISH  
25 NORTH ROAD  
CHELMSFORD



# March 24, 2024 Palm Sunday

So they brought the colt to Jesus and put their cloaks over it. And He sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields.

- Mark 11: 7-8



## Parish Office Location and Hours

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

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday • 9 am - 5 pm

Wednesday • 9:30 am - 5:00 pm

Friday • 9 am - 3 pm

## Weekend Mass Schedule

St. John • Saturday, 4 pm | Sunday, 9:30 am and 6 pm

• African Liturgy | Sunday, 12 pm

St. Margaret • Saturday, 4 pm | Sunday, 7:30 and 10 am

St. Mary • Saturday, 4 pm | Sunday, 7 and 11 am

## Daily Mass Schedule

Monday - Friday

7 am at St. Mary • 8 am at St. Margaret • 9 am at St. John

## Sacrament of Reconciliation

Monday • 4:30 - 5:30 pm • St. John

Tuesday • 4:30 - 5:30 pm • St. Margaret

Wednesday • 4:30 - 5:30 pm • St. Mary

Saturday • 11 am - 12 noon at St. Mary

• 1 pm - 2 pm at St. Margaret

• 3 pm - 3:45 pm at St. John

## Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesdays (Sep-Jun) • 9 am - 2 pm • St. Margaret OLL Chapel

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

First Fridays at St. John OPC Adoration Chapel

1 pm - 10 pm; following Saturday 6 am - 8 am

Third Sundays • 3:30 - 4:30 pm • St. Mary Church

## LIVEVIEW Devotions

Monday - Friday

3 pm • Chaplet of Divine Mercy at St. John

7 pm • Rosary at St. Mary

## Prayer Line

(978) 256-2374, ext. 223. After hours, press 5.

\*Please read entire bulletin for potential schedule changes

# weekly calendar

## Monday, March 25

Confession • 4:30 - 5:30 pm • SJE Church  
Rosary • 7 pm • SM Church and LIVEVIEW

## Tuesday, March 26

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  
Easter Youth Choir Rehearsal • 4:30 pm • SJE Church

## Wednesday, March 27

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  
Tenebrae: A Service of Shadows • 7 pm • SM Church

~ The Triduum ~

## Holy Thursday, March 28

There is NO daily Mass today  
Morning Prayer • 9 am • SMS Church  
Mass of the Lord's Supper • 7 pm • SM Church  
Adoration following Mass through to Midnight • SM Hall  
Adoration in SM Chapel is cancelled

## Good Friday, March 29

There is NO daily Mass today  
Morning Prayer • 9 am • SJE Church  
Youth-Led Stations of the Cross • 3 pm • SMS Church  
The Passion of Our Lord • 7 pm • SMS Church

## Holy Saturday, March 30

Confessions will not be heard today  
Morning Prayer • 9 am • SM Church  
Easter Vigil (followed by fellowship) • 8 pm • SJE Church

~ Happy Easter ~

## 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 and 11 am



## St. Margaret of Scotland

Gerald Rudy & Claribel Irizarry  
BANNES I

Jawhaun Santiago & Nicole Capra  
BANNES I

## GOOD FRIDAY at St. Margaret IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT PARKING

We ask that if you are physically able, to please park in the Lowell Catholic Elementary Parking Lot located on the corner of Parker and Stevens Streets. This allows us to reserve the closer parking—the lot next to the church in the Stevens Street/ D Street/ Chauncy Ave block—for those who most need it.



Thank you.

## Mass Attendance

Weekend of March 16th/17th

St. Mary		
4 pm	7 am	11 am
186	108	335

St. Margaret of Scotland		
4 pm	7:30 am	10 am
106	114	170

St. John the Evangelist			
4 pm	9:30 am	12 pm	6 pm
212	238	72	117



What do you call an angry carrot?

(answer on page 5)

For those staff members that have extensions listed, the number to call is (978) 256-2374. To send an email, visit our website at <https://theholyrood.org/staff>.

## Clergy

Rev Brian E. Mahoney, Pastor | (978) 254-0560  
Rev Fernando Ayala, Parochial Vicar | (978) 401-9844  
Rev Patrick Alemayo, C.S.Sp., Parochial Vicar | (978) 451-6767  
Rev Arnold F. Colletti, Sr. Priest in Residence | ext 116  
Rev Raymond Benoit, Sr. Priest in Residence | ext 115  
Dcn John C. Hunt, Jr., Permanent Deacon | (978) 254-2696  
Dcn Frank Perez de Alderete, Permanent Deacon | (978) 254-0638  
Dcn Barry V. Lloyd, Sr. Permanent Deacon | (978) 454-6505

## Outreach & Parish Ministry

Sr. Lori Fleming, SNDdeN, Pastoral Associate | ext 225

## Business Office

Paul Firicano, Business Manager | ext 220  
Tina Sousa, Finance Coordinator | ext 219

## Family Faith Formation

Heather Hannaway, MA, Dir of Faith Formation | ext 226  
Courtney Callanan, MA, Asst Dir of Faith Formation | ext 227  
Shaun Bradley, MA, Faith Formation Associate | ext 232  
Elaine Kindler, Faith Formation Program Administrator | ext 216  
Lynn Anne LaDuke, Faith Formation Coordinator | ext 240

## Office Administration

Sue Beechin, Administrative Assistant | ext 236  
Jamie Brown, part-time Scheduling Coordinator | ext 239  
Donna Gambon, part-time Administrative Assistant | ext 248  
Rae Russo, part-time Funeral Coordinator | (978) 306-5882

## Facilities

Chris Goglia, Director of Facilities | (978) 341-4203  
Dan Heider, Facilities Project Manager | ext 213

## Bulletin, Website, Social Media

Christine Trznadel, Communications Director | (978) 254-4406

If you would like to submit a notice to be published in the bulletin, please do so no later than 12 noon, **two** Fridays prior to the weekend in which you would like it published.

Email submittals to [christine@theholyrood.org](mailto:christine@theholyrood.org) or mail:

The Holy Rood Parish Offices/ ATTN Christine Trznadel  
115 Middlesex Street, North Chelmsford, MA, 01863

We will do our best to accommodate your request.

Each parish in the Archdiocese of Boston is required to have a parish pastoral council.



The role of the PPC is to assist the pastor in his leadership role of planning, organizing, initiating, promoting, coordinating and reviewing the evangelization, worship, religious education and service activities within the parish. The PPC serves in an advisory role and the pastor takes into serious account their opinions and recommendations. The PPC should be an important means by which the pastor will hear the voice of the parish. Through its deliberations and consultation with the pastor, the PPC helps to unite the pastor and the parishioners. Together they discern the pastoral needs of the parish and ways in which those needs can be addressed.

## Collaborative Parish Council

Parish Council matters can be sent to:  
[collaborativeppc@theholyrood.org](mailto:collaborativeppc@theholyrood.org)

Steve McMillan - Chair

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

## St. John Finance Council

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

Jeff Brown - Chair

John Bagni	Paul Brzezinski
Celeste Dunn	Grace Ann Steed

## St. Margaret Finance Council

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

Robert Gilman - Chair

Thomas Kirwin	Betty McKiernan
Diana Patel	Marc Trudel

## St. Mary Finance Council

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

Lauren Desforge - Chair

Armand DiLando	Ted Powers
Paul Therrien	Paul Rigazio



# here's what's happening in The Holy



The Emergency Management Planning Committee applied for and received

grants to improve security in the Collaborative's buildings. At this time, we would like to update our parishioners on these projects and how these improvements will impact all of us.

Security assessments at all three churches showed the need for better safety procedures and building management to protect our congregations. To address this need, the Emergency Management Planning Committee chose to move from hard keys to key fobs and timers on doors for a few reasons:

## **Overall security of the three parishes**

Updating the locking and key system allows more safety and accountability for parishioners and staff, and better security for our facilities.

## **Remote door access**

Door locks can be managed automatically and without the need to have staff present. Physical keys can be lost or stolen and re-keying a door or building is costly. This upgrade provides the ability to reprogram a door with little cost and risk but maintains high security.

## **Identification**

Key fobs and timers provide the Collaborative with the ability to know who is in the various buildings, should the need ever arise.

Please be patient during this early time. The facilities team is still determining who should receive a key fob and what times doors should be unlocked and locked in events scheduled through the Collaborative. These times may be adjusted as we become aware of opportunities for improvements, including learning about the specific needs for certain events for the automatic timers. For example: some timers may be set to unlock the doors 30 minutes before an event. If you were to arrive 35 minutes before, the door would be locked. We ask for your continued patience as we make adjustments.

If you need any adjustments to timetables, want to inquire about a key fob, or have any questions about our progress on these projects, please reach out to Chris Goglia, Director of Facilities at [chris@theholyrood.org](mailto:chris@theholyrood.org).

The Holy Rood Collaborative Emergency Management Planning Committee is grateful for the support provided by our Collaborative leadership and the parishioners of our three parishes.



This story never gets old.

How quickly things change, from  
"Hosanna" and palm branches to  
"Crucify Him! Crucify Him!"

Strange that it was Pilate who asked:  
"Are you king of the Jews?"

And then, correctly, publicly, identified  
him: "...they placed over his head the  
written charge against him:  
This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."

He is our king.

During this holiest week of the year,  
consider spending some time in  
church or in quiet prayer reflecting on  
the way of the Cross (the Stations)  
with the One Who died for you!

On Good Friday...  
good because it is the day we were  
redeemed — when we sing "Were You  
There" will you be able to say,  
"Yes, Lord, I walked —  
and will continue to walk with you."

*Hosanna*  
BLESSED IS HE

# Rood Collaborative community



## St. Margaret of Scotland Prayer Shawl Ministry Update

Our ministry members always trust that the Holy Spirit will get every shawl and chemo cap to the right person. Thank you notes that we receive and stories that we hear encourage us to keep going.

Recently, we received the following notes:

From “The Chaplains” at a local hospital:

*Thank you so much for the beautiful Prayer Shawls you have made for our patients. They love to receive them. God bless you all...*

From 2 women battling cancer:

*Prayer Shawl is so pretty.  
Thank you for praying and thinking of me...*

*Thank you for the lovely shawl. Your thoughtfulness and prayers are greatly appreciated.*

At the last Prayer Shawl meeting, one of our members shared the following, which a recipient’s wife had shared with her:

*My adult children and I were in a Boston hospital where my husband was dying of lung cancer. One of our priests came into the room and gently laid a Prayer Shawl on my husband’s chest. Immediately, the air in the room changed. Our children were moved by the change and wondered what had happened. They were not church-goers.*

Our amazing God uses all of our gifts in unimaginable ways—touching each of us as He pleases.

If you knit or crochet, don’t hesitate to join us—just bring your talent, your humor, and yourself!

Do you know someone who needs a Prayer Shawl or a chemo cap? If so:

- Call Brenda D’Amour at (978) 453-2723 or Anna Pratt at (508) 517-7507
- Visit <https://theholyrood.org/request-a-prayer-shawl>

**Please pray for those whom we serve and for our service.**

## FAITH FORMATION REGISTRATION OPENS MONDAY APRIL 1ST

Do you have a child(ren) going into grade 1-8 who has not been baptized or received their First Communion? Or a child(ren) entering grade 9-12 who has not been confirmed? For you and for ALL families of our collaborative, we are announcing that... Registration for the 2024/25 Faith Formation year opens on Monday, April 1 (no joke!)

If you do NOT already have a My Own Church (MOC) Account—which is needed to register for our program—visit ... <https://theholyrood.org/create-moc-account>.

**We HIGHLY suggest you create this account BEFORE April 1st so that you can register ON THAT DAY to take advantage of not only early bird rates, but also a chance to win an Adult Easter Basket valued at over \$100!** All families who register by the end of the day, April 1<sup>st</sup>, will be automatically entered!



answer: A steamed vegetable



## All Night Eucharistic Vigil

Friday, April 5 | St. Mary Church



The vigil will begin with Mass of the Sacred Heart at 9 pm celebrated by Fr. Fernando, and conclude with the Mass of the Immaculate Heart at 5 am celebrated by Fr. Joseph Akilo. Eucharistic catechesis and reading material will be made available and communal prayer will be recited throughout the night. Additionally, refreshments will be available.

The intentions of this vigil are for Cardinal Seán O’Malley, Bishops, priests, deacons, and women and men religious throughout the Archdiocese. Special intentions for all the new deacons that will be ordained this spring.

During the course of the night, we will engage in various spiritual exercises, including the Divine Mercy Chaplet and meditations of the Stations of the Cross beginning at 3 am.

# 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](http://www.theholyrood.org); click on the stewardship tab

## HOLY THURSDAY COLLECTION

All monies collected on Holy Thursday will be used to support our Sister Parish, Our Lady, Star of the Sea in Sierra Leone, West Africa, who, since 2017, have benefited greatly from your generosity.

## GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION

Good Friday's collection for the Holy Land is, in the words of Paul VI, "not only for the Holy Places, but above all, for those pastoral, charitable, educational, and social works which the Church supports in the Holy Land for the welfare of their Christian brethren and of the local communities.

## EASTER SUNDAY COLLECTION

Next week, at all our Easter Masses, our only collection will be to support the retirement, medical and financial needs of our priests in good standing throughout the Archdiocese of Boston. On behalf of all our priests, thank you in advance for your generosity. For more information, please visit [www.clergytrust.org](http://www.clergytrust.org).

ST. MARY WEEKLY OFFERTORY	Weekend of March 16th/17th	Fiscal Year-To-Date March 17th	Fiscal YTD Average/Week
Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses	\$14,500	\$551,000	\$14,500
Actual Received	\$13,756	\$519,541	\$13,672
Shortfall/ Overage	-\$744	-\$31,459	-\$828

ST. JOHN WEEKLY OFFERTORY	Weekend of March 16th/17th	Fiscal Year-To-Date March 17th	Fiscal YTD Average/Week
Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses	\$10,300	\$391,400	\$10,300
Actual Received	\$8,291	\$334,477	\$8,802
Shortfall/ Overage	-\$2,009	-\$56,923	-\$1,498

ST. MARGARET WEEKLY OFFERTORY	Weekend of March 16th/17th	Fiscal Year-To-Date March 17th	Fiscal YTD Average/Week
Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses	\$4,800	\$182,400	\$4,800
Actual Received	\$4,126	\$172,969	\$4,552
Shortfall/ Overage	-\$674	-\$9,431	-\$248

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

thank you

## GRAND ANNUAL AS OF MARCH 17TH

	Goal	Raised	%age of Goal
St. Mary	\$100,000	\$77,640	77.64%
St. John	\$70,000	\$43,906	62.72%
St. Margaret	\$70,000	\$46,379	66.26%

# HOLY WEEK

All Holy Week events are available in-person or via LIVEVIEW



## ~ SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION ~

Monday, March 25 • 4:30 - 5:30 pm • St. John  
Tuesday, March 26 • 4:30 - 5:30 pm • St. Margaret  
Wednesday, March 27 • 4:30 - 5:30 pm • St. Mary  
Wednesday, March 27 • 6:30 - 8 pm • All Churches

*The Sacrament of Reconciliation will not be available on Holy Saturday, March 30 at any of our churches*

## ~ TENEBRAE: A SERVICE OF SHADOWS ~

Wednesday, March 27 • 7 pm • St. Mary

## ~ DAILY MASS/ PRAYER SCHEDULE ~

NO DAILY MASS Thursday or Friday

Thursday Prayer	9 am at St. Margaret
Friday Prayer	9 am at St. John
Saturday Prayer	9 am at St. Mary

## ~ STATIONS OF THE CROSS ~

Tuesday, March 26, following 3 pm Chaplet • St. John

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

## ~ EUCHARISTIC ADORATION ~

Wednesday, March 27 • 9am - 2 pm  
St. Margaret OLL Chapel (downstairs of church)

Thursday, March 28 • St. Mary Hall  
Following Mass of the Lord's Supper - midnight

St. Mary Thursday, March 28  
Adoration in Parish Chapel is cancelled

## ~ HOLY THURSDAY: MARCH 28 ~

Morning Prayer • 9 am at St. Margaret  
Mass of the Lord's Supper • 7 pm at St. Mary  
*Adoration in Hall following Mass through Midnight*

## ~ GOOD FRIDAY: MARCH 29 ~

Morning Prayer • 9 am at St. John  
Youth-Led Stations 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  
The Great Easter Vigil Mass • 8 pm at St. John

# TRIDUUM

God gathers us together to remember the events that constitute the Paschal Mystery—the death, resurrection and ascension—of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We who are Christian, remember that in Baptism we entered into the Paschal Mystery: we died to sin and rose to new life with Christ. Those who are preparing for Baptism, enter these days surrounded by signs and symbols that will plunge us into the Paschal Mystery.

As we begin this Sacred Triduum, the Holy Oils were blessed by Cardinal Seán O'Malley at this week's Chrism Mass. These oils—The Oil of the Catechumens, Oil of the Sick and Sacred Chrism—are brought into the Church in solemn procession and presented to the congregation at the beginning of Holy Thursday Mass. These oils will be used throughout the year to anoint the sick, those preparing for Baptism, the newly baptized, and those being confirmed.

The three days—Triduum—are actually one liturgy or celebration. We begin with the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, leading to the Celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday. On Holy Saturday, we celebrate the Easter Vigil on the Holy Night which begins in darkness. We kindle a new fire, in anticipation that we will be inflamed with new hope. Christ our Light is proclaimed, and as the Easter light spreads throughout the assembly, we marvel at the power of the Resurrection of Christ. We then attune our ears to the power of God's Word. We hear the central stories of salvation that lead us to embrace the story of Christ's triumph over death.

*"He is not here. He is risen!"*

This is the night when, having shared in the Paschal Mystery once again, we renew our commitment to go forth in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Alleluias are on our lips, with the fragrance of chrism filling our heads, with fresh baptismal waters covering us, with the taste of the Body and Blood of Christ on our tongues, we go forth renewed in spirit to bring the message of the Risen Savior to a world hungry for salvation.



# 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

## CONFIRMATION I | SUNDAY, MARCH 24

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

## MARCH DEEP DIVES

for details, visit <https://theholyrood.org/deep-dives>

**Palm Sunday Cantata**  
Sunday, March 24  
3 pm | St. Mary Church

**Holy Week Celebrations**  
refer to page 4 for complete schedule

**Tenebrae Service**  
Wednesday, March 27  
7 pm | St. Mary Church

**COMING SOON!**

2024/25 Faith Formation Registration opens on Monday, April 1st. If you do NOT have an MOC (My Own Church) Account, we highly suggest that you create one PRIOR to this date to make your registration process more efficient! Plus, if you register ON April 1st, you will automatically be entered into a drawing to win an adult-themed Easter basket. Please refer to page 5 for ALL details!

Thanks to donations from our Tuition Angels, we have been able to assist 21 collaborative families—equating to 40 children—participating in this year's Family Faith Formation program. Having said that, there are approximately that many more families who remain in need of assistance.



If you haven't yet become a Tuition Angel, or if your family is in a position to make an additional donation, your gift to the Faith Formation Scholarship Fund would be greatly appreciated. You will be assisting families to receive critical formation in our Catholic faith.

Your donation can be made online via any of our church giving links that can be found by visiting [www.theholyrood.org/on-line-giving](http://www.theholyrood.org/on-line-giving). If you choose to write a check, please make it payable to the parish in which you wish to donate and note SCHOLARSHIP FUND on the memo line.

Your donation can be hand-delivered/mailed to the parish offices or dropped into any of our secure black drop boxes. Thank you!





**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!**

# Invitation to prayer

This prayer—taken from the words of Pope Pius XII on the Sacred Liturgy—is designed to be said within the family before a Crucifix on Palm Sunday and during Holy Week.

**All Together:** Dearly beloved, in Holy Week, when the most bitter sufferings of Jesus Christ are put before us by the liturgy, the Church invites us to come to Calvary and follow in the blood-stained footsteps of the Divine Redeemer, to carry the Cross willingly with Him, to reproduce in our hearts His spirit of expiation and atonement, and to die together with Him.

**Parent:** We ought to glory in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ

**All Together:** in whom is our salvation, life and resurrection.

**Parent:** Let us pray.  
All-powerful, eternal God, You have chosen to give mankind a model of humility; our Savior took on our flesh, and subjected Himself to the Cross. Grant us the grace to preserve faithfully the lessons He has given us in His Passion and to have a share in His resurrection. This we ask of You through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son.

**Family:** Amen. Favor this dwelling, Lord, with Your presence. Far from it repulse all the wiles of Satan. Your holy angels, let them live here, to keep us in peace. And may Your blessing remain always upon us. This we ask of You through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son.

**Parent:** Let us bless the Lord.

**Family:** Thanks be to God.

**Parent:** May the almighty and merciful Lord, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless and keep us.

**Family:** Amen.

# A FUN TIME WAS HAD BY ALL AT THE RECENT **St. Patrick's** & Dinner Party & Shamrock Raffle **AND HERE ARE SOME PICTURES TO PROVE IT!**



St. John's Hospitality Ministry would like to thank all who supported our St. Patrick's Dinner Party through attendance at the dinner, all the raffle basket donations for the Shamrock Raffle and assistance in promoting the event through ticket sales. Your support truly made a difference in contributing to the event's success. A special thanks to Frank Peabody, Bud Caulfield and Ed Ciampa for sharing your talents with a grateful audience.








*Congratulations* to St. John Parishioner  
 Lorraine Cormier...  
 the winner of the 50-50 raffle!



TO SEE ALL THE PHOTOS, VISIT <https://theholyrood.org/st-patricks-day-dinner>





Last week we looked at where illness and suffering come from and how people respond to it in their lives. As we struggle with this issue—which can be overwhelming—we are called to make an appointment with the Divine Physician. What does this appointment look like? What *is* the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick and where does its power come from?

In the sacrament we come to meet Christ who is the Divine Physician. The power of the sacrament comes from Christ himself who is the true minister of the sacrament. The sacrament finds its source of healing power in Christ. As an individual confronts illness through the sacrament, he or she experiences Christ's own Paschal Mystery (passion, death and resurrection, and ascension), which is our very salvation both at death and in the life we are called to live. Hence, the heart of the sacrament is Christ's salvific actions. As the person encounters their own brokenness, Christ meets them through his brokenness and unites with them as one, in the power of the resurrection. Reaching out to the sick and the burdened was an important part of Jesus' ministry. The Good News is that in our sickness, we are not forgotten—we are not alone—Jesus is with us. He walks with us on our journey of illness. He understands our suffering, our burden, and our brokenness because He endured them himself through his passion and death. Christ desires us, therefore, to unite ourselves to Him. In this unifying action we will find the source of hope and strength that we need. In his own ministry we see that Christ dealt in a physical way with the sick. He used mud, spittle, water, and touch. He sent his disciples forth to minister to the ill and burdened. Connecting with those who were consumed by their suffering was an important element of Christ's mission, and it continues today through the ministry of the Church. The Church is part of this experience to help us realize that we are not alone. Rather, Jesus—with the whole Church—is here to help us in our time of trouble and turmoil. The Church is here to pray with the person and help them know that the whole community is concerned for their wellbeing. As such, the priest who is called upon to anoint the person is not *really* the minister of what is happening. It is Christ who is acting *through* the priest (*in persona Christi*); He is there as well as the whole Church, and the priest also acts as an instrument of the Church (*in persona ecclesiae*). As the sacrament is administered, it is *not* about the priest; it is about meeting with the Divine Physician.

Once we have met with the Divine Physician, He will diagnose our needs. The purpose of the sacrament is not to *necessarily* bring about a physical healing, but the healing that the person truly needs. Christ understands what is truly best for us. Just think about the story of the paralytic. "The people brought to Him a paralytic lying on a stretcher. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, 'Courage, child, your sins are forgiven.' At that, some of the scribes said to themselves, 'This man is blaspheming.' Jesus knew what they were thinking, and said, 'Why do you harbor evil thoughts? Which is easier, to say: Your sins are forgiven, or to say, Rise and walk? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins'—He then said to the paralytic, 'Rise, pick up your stretcher, and go home.' He rose and went home. When the crowd saw this they were struck with awe and glorified God who had given such authority to human beings." (Matt. 9:2-8) We may ask ourselves, then, who should be anointed? And how often should we be anointed? The answers to these questions are found in the General Introduction for the Pastoral Care of the Sick: "A sick person may be anointed before surgery whenever a serious illness is the reason for the surgery. Elderly people may be anointed if they have become notably weakened even though no serious illness is present. Sick children may be anointed if they have sufficient use of reason to be strengthened by this sacrament. The sacrament may be repeated if the sick person recovers after being anointed but falls ill again, or if during the same illness the person's condition becomes more serious. A prudent or reasonably sure judgment, without scruples, is sufficient for deciding the seriousness of an illness." Ultimately, Christ meets people where they're at, to strengthen them with his presence and grace, uniting them to the Paschal Mystery. Jesus provides new meaning to suffering—He shows us that the cross always leads to the resurrection. Therefore, we always have hope.

Two weeks from now, we will continue our examination of this sacrament. We will learn what treatment Christ will give us based on his diagnosis of what we truly need.

If you have any questions about anything, please do not hesitate to call me at (978) 254-0560 or email me at <https://theholyrood.org/email-fr-brian>.

Please keep me in your prayers.

## From our Pastoral Associate

Sr. Lori Fleming, SNDdeN

### Make Time to See 'Mercying' Love

For me, one of the most moving of the Good Friday services is the Veneration of the Cross. I use the word "moving" because it stirs within me deep feelings and an acknowledgement of the personal love that Jesus has for me, simply because I am his. He is God, the Father's gift to me. Jesus is my Savior.

And because this personal love has a strong integral communal dimension, this personal love is naturally—by nature of coming from God—felt and shared with and by my sisters and brothers of all ages, races, and ethnicities who silently move forward in procession, acknowledging Jesus as our Savior and God. Veneration of the Cross—this public and reverent witness to the God whose Mercying Love makes real his infinite faithfulness to the Covenant, roots in me the belief that God is with me and within me always. *"His mercy and love endures forever."* (Psalm 136)

Jesus calls and asks me to live the commandment to *Love God with my whole heart, mind, and soul. And to love my neighbor, as I love myself.* (Mark 12:30-31) Yes, when I look to Jesus on the Cross, I see the suffering and pain He endured for me. I see my sinfulness and need for the redemption and healing that Jesus' obedience to humiliation and agonizing death bring to me. In Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross, I hear the words: *"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."* (Luke 23:34) Jesus is speaking this to each of us who venerate the Cross today.

And, yes, when I look to Jesus on the Cross, I see Love—a Mercying Love. Mercying Love because there is nothing I can ever do to deserve it. It is Love freely and unconditionally given. I intentionally use the word mercy with an "ing" ending because I want to emphasize mercy as an active quality of the Love I see (and hope you see) when looking at Jesus on the Cross and pray for a deeper understanding and acceptance of the Incarnation—Jesus coming to live with us to teach us how to Love. To teach us Compassion.

*"Yes, God so loved the world that He gave his only Son, ... that the world might be saved through Him."* (John 3:16-17)

## From our Permanent Deacon

Deacon Frank Perez de Alderete

Working with the RCIA team, we get the opportunity to experience our faith in a new way—through their experiences. They learn the "why" before the "how" and we find ourselves really looking at the things we do and say in a new light. As we walk with them on their journey to the sacraments, it's impossible not to appreciate the beauty and grandeur of our faith. We have the privilege of walking with them as they connect the stirrings of their hearts with the truth of the Gospels.

When I was little, Palm Sunday Mass was confusing to me. We started with this joyous entrance, waving palms and singing, but then in the Gospel things seem to go sideways. I knew Holy Week was a big deal, and coming from a Latin household, I wasn't allowed to go swimming (Holy Week often coincided with April vacation in Florida) and I wasn't allowed to watch TV or listen to the radio on Good Friday. Obviously I didn't have the maturity to understand Holy Week; I didn't have the ability to appreciate what it was really about. I understood it was important because my family took it very seriously, but it didn't "fit" into my understanding of the faith. I was too young to understand the connection between the triumphal entry into Jerusalem and the triumph of the cross.

Cradle Catholics like me tend to learn the faith by imitating our parents. They teach us the words, the movements, the rhythm of the Church, and we do what they do even if we don't understand the reason for it. Long before our First Communion we know how to genuflect, when to kneel, when to stand, and how to pray. We learn over time what these things mean, and at some point, we begin to get an idea of the real meaning of all the things that are muscle-memory to us. As we mature, we begin to understand the meaning of a relationship with God and the meaning of worship. In effect, we learn our faith backwards: we first learn the external elements, and then we connect those to the internal movement of the Spirit. The awakening of our spiritual selves can be sudden or it can be gradual, but it is the moment when we connect movements to meaning. It's hard to imagine what it would be like to feel the movement of the Holy Spirit, calling you to a relationship with God and not having the framework to understand it.

This Holy Week will be an eventful one for the RCIA Elect and Confirmandi. It's also an opportunity for us to experience Holy Week through them, to experience it as if it were our first one. For them, every liturgy is new, every action—from the washing of feet on Thursday to the lighting of the fire on Saturday night—is special, as it should be for us. On Saturday night, they will join the Body of Christ, coming into full communion with the Church—with us. It's an amazing time for them and for us, as we welcome them to the family; it's a time to pause and take it all in.

Please pray for Brendan, Jahwuan, Mach, Timothy, Tyler, Jasinia, Justin, Michelle, and Ria.

**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

<b>SAT, MAR 23</b>	4 pm	Grace M Steed, Martin J Steed Sr and Mary Blanche Steed: Memorial
<b>SUN, MAR 24</b>	930 am	John R Kelley: Birthday Memorial
	12 pm	LIVING INTENTION: In Thanksgiving of Peter Nyarko's Birthday
	6 pm	People of the Parish
<b>MON, MAR 25</b>	9 am	Rose Serra: Birthday Memorial
<b>TUE, MAR 26</b>	9 am	Personal Intention
<b>WED, MAR 27</b>	9 am	Virginia DiNatale: Memorial
<b>SAT, MAR 30</b>	8 pm	Catchumens and Confirmandi
<b>SUN, MAR 31</b>	930 am	People of the Parish
	12 pm	People of the Parish

## St. Margaret of Scotland

<b>SAT, MAR 23</b>	4 pm	Leo J Carboneau Sr: 16th Anniversary
<b>SUN, MAR 24</b>	730 am	People of the Parish
	10 am	Lucy Petullo: Memorial
<b>MON, MAR 25</b>	8 am	Rita Doherty: Memorial
<b>TUE, MAR 26</b>	8 am	Vincent Latham: Memorial
<b>WED, MAR 27</b>	8 am	Fr Paul F Manning: Memorial
<b>SUN, MAR 31</b>	730 am	People of the Parish
	10 am	People of the Parish

## St. Mary Parish

<b>SAT, MAR 23</b>	4 pm	Daniel Daley: 5th Anniversary
<b>SUN, MAR 24</b>	7 am	People of the Parish
	11 am	Maria Baldeia: 3rd Anniversary
<b>MON, MAR 25</b>	7 am	Jeffrey Wherry: Memorial
<b>TUE, MAR 26</b>	7 am	Karen Ryan: Memorial
<b>WED, MAR 27</b>	7 am	Julie Anne Pascual Torres: Memorial
<b>THU, MAR 28</b>	7 pm	People of the Parish
<b>SUN, MAR 31</b>	7 am	People of the Parish
	11 am	People of the Parish

Below are a number of ways in which you can give remembrance and honor to a loved one or personal intention. To schedule any of these intentions, please contact the Parish Offices at (978) 256-2374.

**Please note that the scheduling of your intention requires a 2-week notice, and that your intention will appear in the bulletin.**



## Altar Flowers

Parishioners are invited to donate a floral arrangement to be displayed on the altar of any of our churches in memory of, or in honor of, a loved one. The requested donation for an arrangement is \$40, and the dedication will be published in the weekly bulletin.



## 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.

## Recent Funerals

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



Mary Jo Savini • Monday, March 18 • St. John  
Leocadia Wilson • Thursday, March 21 • St. Margaret  
Alice Surrette • Friday, March 22 • St. John



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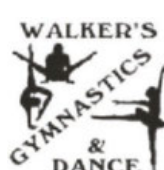
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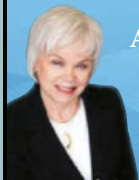
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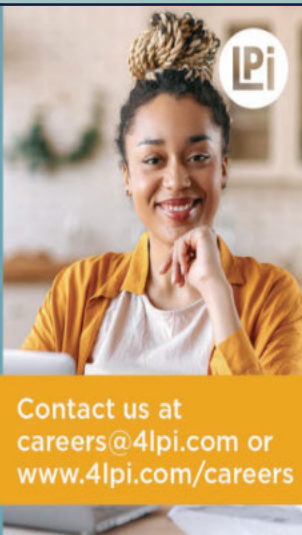
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