



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

Our Vision Statement:

*That we become a community built on an intimate and loving relationship with Christ.*



# January 5, 2025

Feast of Epiphany

*Behold, Magi from the East*



## 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

St. John • Monday, 4:30 - 5:30 pm | Saturday, 3 - 3:45 pm

St. Margaret • Tuesday, 4:30 - 5:30 pm | Saturday, 1 - 2 pm

St. Mary • Wednesday, 4:30 - 5:30 pm | Saturday, 11 am - 12 pm

## 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 - 10 pm; continues 6 - 9 am next morning

Third Sundays • 3:30 - 4:30 pm (praise & worship) • St. Mary

## LIVEVIEW Devotions

3 pm • Chaplet of Divine Mercy at St. John (Monday - Friday)

7 pm • Rosary at St. Mary (Monday - Friday)

## Prayer Line

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

Please read entire bulletin for potential schedule changes



# weekly calendar

## Monday, January 6

**\*\*PARISH OFFICES CLOSED 1:30 - 3:30 PM\*\***

Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3 pm • SJE Church and LIVEVIEW  
Confession • 4:30 - 5:30 pm • SJE Church  
SJE SVdP Meeting • 6:30 - 8:30 pm • SJE OPC  
High School Small Group • 7 - 8:30 pm • SM PC Room 3  
Rosary • 7 pm • SM Church/LIVEVIEW

## Tuesday, January 7

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

## Wednesday, January 8

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  
God Pizza and Beer • 7 - 8:30 pm • SJE OPC  
Rosary • 7 pm • SM Church/LIVEVIEW  
Troop 77 Meeting • 7 - 8:30 pm • SM Hall

## Thursday, January 9

Charismatic Prayer Group • 10 - 11:30 am • 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/LIVEVIEW  
SM Choir and Ensemble Rehearsal • 7:30 - 8:30 pm • SM Church

## Friday, January 10

Knitting and Crocheting • 2 - 4 pm • SM Hall  
Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3 pm • SJE Church and LIVEVIEW  
Rosary • 7 pm • SM Church/LIVEVIEW

## Saturday, January 11

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

## Sunday, January 12

Family Mass • 9:30 am • SJE Church  
Donut Sunday, following 10 am Mass • SMS SH Hall  
High School Small Group • 7 - 8:30 pm • SJE OPC

The Parish Offices will be closed from  
**1:30 - 3:30 pm THIS MONDAY, January 6,**  
for our monthly Staff Meeting.

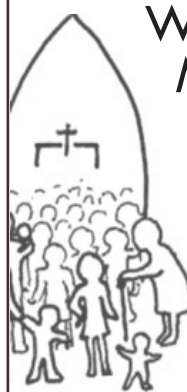


Join us in wishing Deacon Barry a very  
happy birthday as he celebrates his  
special day this Saturday!

## FRIENDLY REMINDER



Please note that **ALL Handicap Parking spaces** are meant for those who need them. Vehicles parked in these spaces are required to have a handicap plate/visible placard. We have a number of parishioners who need these spaces. Please also note that the zebra stripes next to these spaces are to allow extra room for those in wheelchairs to comfortably exit their vehicle. Thank you for your cooperation.



## Weekend Mass Attendance

Due to an early submittal to the printer because of the New Year's holiday, the Christmas and December 28th/29th Mass attendance will be published in next Sunday's bulletin.



what did the third wise man say  
after his friends had already  
presented gold and  
frankincense?

(answer on page 4)

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 Collaborative 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-Lamboy      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  
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  
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  
Deb Mahoney      Ted Powers  
Paul Therrien      Paul Rigazio



# here's what's happening in The Holy

## MONDAY Bible MORNING STUDY

ASCENSION  
The Faith Formation Leader

**Luke: The Story of Salvation Fulfilled**

Mondays  
10:30 am - 12 noon  
Jan 27 | Feb 3, 10, 24  
Mar 3, 10, 17, 24

St. Mary PC Conference Room 1 or ZOOM

**Registration and Order Materials by January 13**

To register and order materials, please visit :  
[www.theholyrood.org/adult-bible-study-current](http://www.theholyrood.org/adult-bible-study-current)



answer: but wait, there's myrrh!



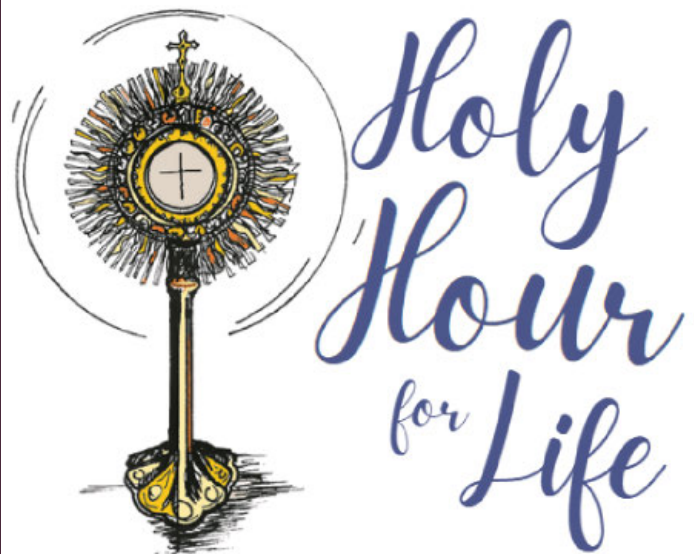
*trivia night*  
Fellowship, Fun,  
and Food for the Brain!

The December 13th frigid night air did not deter the brainiacs and fun-seekers in our community from the pursuit of the **Cup of Useless Knowledge** award! As a matter of fact, this was the largest attendance ever! And, for the second month in a row, we announce The Titans as the winners!



Sitting l to r: Donna Gambon, Joan O'Connor, Ned Judge, Colleen Judge  
Standing l to r: Patricia Busser, Ray Busser, Shalyn Misra, David Bueger

See you on January 31st!



7 - 8:30 PM | FRIDAY, JANUARY 24  
ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND CHURCH  
CELEBRANT: DEACON JOHN

## 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? You can email them at [FCN@theholyrood.org](mailto:FCN@theholyrood.org). or leave them a message at the Parish Offices; (978) 256-2374.

## WISE MEN STILL SEEK HIM

### BAPTISM

We joyfully welcome the following children into our collaborative family.

May the Lord continue to bless these children and their parents and fill their homes with the light of faith.

**ST. MARY CHURCH**

Niko Humble

**ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST**

Madelyn Noella Comeau



# Rood Collaborative community



On Tuesday, December 24, the Catholic Church officially began a Jubilee Year.

As we journey through to January 2026, we will be sharing with you the ways that we will be observing this year as a community of faith.

In the meantime, we are asked to include the below Jubilee Prayer—penned by Pope Francis—in our daily prayer practice.

## The Jubilee Prayer

**Father in heaven,  
may the *faith* you have given us  
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,  
and the flame of *charity* enkindled  
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,  
reawaken in us the blessed *hope*  
for the coming of your Kingdom.**

**May your grace transform us  
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.  
May those seeds transform from within  
both humanity and the whole cosmos  
in the sure expectation  
of a new heaven and a new earth,  
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,  
your glory will shine eternally.**

**May the grace of the Jubilee  
reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*,  
a yearning for the treasures of heaven  
May that same grace spread  
the joy and peace of our Redeemer  
throughout the earth.  
To you our God, eternally blessed,  
be glory and praise for ever.**

**Amen.**

To read more about this jubilee year, visit our website at <https://theholyrood.org/jubilee-2025>. Here you can find links that will help you better understand and navigate through the coming year—the jubilee ends on January 6, 2025.

It is here where you can also download the above prayer to put on your fridge, in your bible, on your mirror, etc.

## Support Dismas Ministry From Fr. Richard Deshaies, Catholic Chaplain Middlesex Jail & House of Correction



Dismas Ministry (DM) is a national Catholic mailing outreach, located in the Milwaukee area that has been supporting Catholic prison and jail chaplains, parish volunteers and

Catholic prisoners for 25 years through the distribution of free Catholic print materials to supplement their ministry and to give to prisoners for their private spiritual use. These resources are often unavailable through prison budgets, but they play a crucial role in helping prisoners grow in faith. These materials include Catholic Bibles, a unique Dismas Ministry-developed prayer book, and study programs, as well as other materials used to train chaplains in the various aspects of prison ministry. As a prison chaplain since 2011, I've been a grateful recipient of DM's materials and have served on its Board for a decade.

Although Dismas Ministry applies to foundations and granting agencies, they need to rely on individual donors for 50% of the funding needed to cover costs for these life-changing materials. Many of our original donors from our founding 25 years ago have passed on or are no longer able to assist us financially.

With the evolving reality left behind by the coronavirus pandemic, and ever-changing criminal justice reforms in the courts and in the practice of bail, most county jails and state prisons at this time are housing less inmates than just 4 years ago. But the current inmate population has much higher rates of more serious crime, more pronounced mental health diagnoses and disorders, and other chronic illnesses—up to 70% of inmates! Furthermore, among both the inmate population and facility correctional officers and staff, there is an increasingly less literate and less religiously-formed population. With ongoing generational changes, prisoners are therefore more uninformed, marginalized, segregated and resourceless than usual with regards to their attempts to practice some kind of faith or spirituality while behind bars.

I humbly ask that you consider making a financial contribution or gift to Dismas Ministry in order to help them continue their critical Catholic outreach to prisoners. Please make your donation directly to:

Dismas Ministry  
PO Box 2113  
Milwaukee, WI 53201

To learn more, visit <https://dismasministry.org>.

# the Financial Page

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

Fiscal Year 2025: July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

To view this and ALL past financial reports, visit  
[www.theholyrood.org](http://www.theholyrood.org); click on the stewardship

**Due to early bulletin submittals, the Christmas Collection, as well as the December 27th/28th and January 4th/5th offertory will be reported in the January 12th bulletin.**

ST. MARY WEEKLY OFFERTORY	Weekend of December 21st/22nd	Fiscal Year-To-Date December 22nd	Fiscal YTD Average/Week
Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses	\$14,500	\$362,500	\$14,500
Actual Received	\$16,784	\$378,426	\$15,137
Shortfall/ Overage	\$2,284	\$15,926	\$637

ST. JOHN WEEKLY OFFERTORY	Weekend of December 21st/22nd	Fiscal Year-To-Date December 22nd	Fiscal YTD Average/Week
Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses	\$10,300	\$257,500	\$10,300
Actual Received	\$11,752	\$264,203	\$10,568
Shortfall/ Overage	\$1,452	\$6,703	\$268

ST. MARGARET WEEKLY OFFERTORY	Weekend of December 21st/22nd	Fiscal Year-To-Date December 22nd	Fiscal YTD Average/Week
Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses	\$4,800	\$120,000	\$4,800
Actual Received	\$5,932	\$134,261	\$5,370
Shortfall/ Overage	\$1,132	\$14,261	\$570



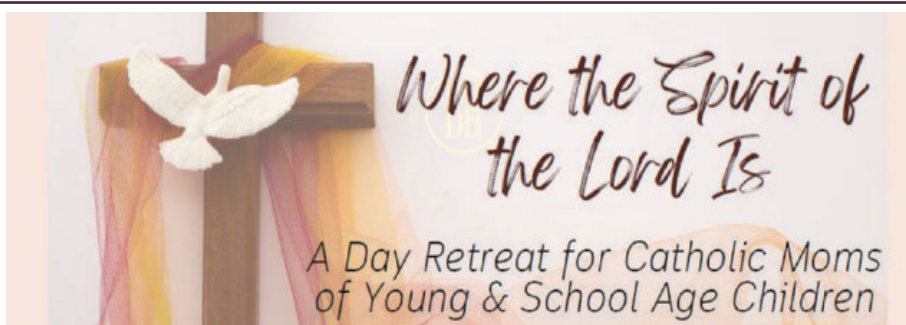
Visit our website and click on the WeShare logo located at the bottom of the homepage, or simply scan this QR code with your Android or iPhone.



Visit our website and click on the Online Giving logo located at the bottom of the homepage, or simply scan this QR code with your Android or iPhone.



Visit our website and click on the VANCO logo located at the bottom of the homepage, or simply scan this QR code with your Android or iPhone.



Saturday, January 25, 2025  
9 am - 3 pm

Notre Dame Spirituality Center  
30 Jeffrey's Neck Road  
Ipswich, MA

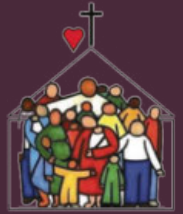
Cost \$55

Register now at: <https://forms.gle/LKjjD9GPvnWkSFzD9> | Contact: Anne Grant at [catholicmomretreat@gmail.com](mailto:catholicmomretreat@gmail.com)



# Family Faith Formation

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



Heather Hannaway, MA • Director of Faith Formation • [hhannaway@theholyrood.org](mailto:hhannaway@theholyrood.org) • ext 226  
 Courtney Callanan, MA • Assistant Director of Faith Formation • [courtney@theholyrood.org](mailto:courtney@theholyrood.org) • ext 227  
 Shaun Bradley • Faith Formation Associate • [sbradley@theholyrood.org](mailto:sbradley@theholyrood.org) • ext 232  
 Elaine Kindler • Faith Formation Program Administrator • [ekindler@theholyrood.org](mailto:ekindler@theholyrood.org) • ext 216  
 Lynn Anne LaDuke • Faith Formation Coordinator • [lynanne@theholyrood.org](mailto:lynanne@theholyrood.org) • ext 240

## JANUARY

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

### Grade 1

Epiphany  
 "Little Christmas"

### Grade 2

Mock Reconciliation  
*parents attend entire session with their child(ren)*

### Grade 3-6

Holy Families  
 "Epiphanal Moments"

### Grade 7&8

Encounter Lesson 4: Exodus  
 Desert Wanderings  
 Conquest and Judges

### Confirmation I

Prayer:  
 Who do You say that I Am?  
 The roles God plays in our lives and in prayer

### Confirmation II

Chosen:  
 "Loving as God calls us to Love"  
 Prayer:  
 Saints: Friends along the Way

### GRADE 1 SUNDAY, JANUARY 5

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

### GRADE 2 SUNDAY, JANUARY 26

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

## JANUARY CLASS SCHEDULE

### GRADE 3-6 | SUNDAY, JANUARY 12 | 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 7&8 SUNDAY, JANUARY 5

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

### CONFIRMATION I SUNDAY, JANUARY 12

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

### CONFIRMATION II SUNDAYS, JANUARY 5, 26

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

## JANUARY DEEP DIVES



Deep Dive details can be found at <https://theholyrood.org/deep-dives>.  
 The deep dive rsvp link is <https://bit.ly/3PKbNmN>.

### Candle Crafting (RSVP)

6:30 - 8 pm | Thursday, January 30 | St. Margaret Sacred Heart Hall

At the completion of any Deep Dive Event, please remember to complete the reflection.  
 It can be found at <https://theholyrood.org/dd-reflection>.

save  
the  
date

**chwc**  
 CATHOLIC HEART WORKCAMP

JULY 20 - 25, 2025  
 NORTH HALEDON, NEW JERSEY



I truly love going to the gym. It's a time for me to decompress, and to let go of stress. I am able to focus simply on the workout and not ponder the countless issues I need to address. People often ask me why I work out, and my answer is that it is essentially

about good health. I want to take good care of the body that God has given me. And exercising does help me to feel healthier—physically, emotionally and mentally. I really do believe that the time I put in at the gym is an investment with a good return. I do know that an important part of my recovery from my motorcycle accident in 2023 came about as a result of the work I previously did at the gym. I would recommend to everyone to exercise—whatever form that might be.

However, something that fascinates me at this time of the year is what happens at the gym. In the month of January there is an explosion of people at the gym, but that tends to taper off during February. It is of course the New Year's resolution crowd. They realize they want to make a change in their life. They know they need to take better care of their bodies and so they go to the nearest gym and sign up. They enter the gym and just start doing something—*anything!* And then, over a period of time (usually brief), they see no changes or differences and so they get discouraged. Then they slowly, or sometimes quickly, stop going to the gym while continuing to pay the gym fees. And even worse, they feel bad about themselves, thinking they are failures.

The reality is *not* that they have failed, but that they did not have a plan for the change they wanted to make. I love going to the gym, but the gym is not necessarily the best place for everyone to exercise. I admit I can be somewhat cheap, and so if I am paying for something I am going to use it. When I used to buy equipment that I planned to use, I would use it for a while and then, over time, it would simply sit and gather dust. Going to the gym is what works best for me but that is not true for everyone. And even if the gym is the right thing, many times people will go in and sort of flounder about, not knowing really where to start. You need to know the best plan for what you want to achieve. I would recommend actually sitting with a personal trainer, at least for a couple of sessions, to understand what it is you want to accomplish. I believe most people “fail” because they do not understand what their goals should be. And if you do not understand what you want to achieve, it is impossible to develop a plan that will work for you. Also it is essential in this process *not* to compare yourself to others. At the gym I am not trying to maximize what my body will look like but, rather, to have a healthy body. As such, my goal is specific to me; what others are doing or how they may look has no impact on what I am trying to achieve.

What is true in our physical life is also true in our spiritual life. We all must have a prayer life and we must all be praying every day. It is impossible to have a relationship with God when we are not communicating with Him on a daily basis. Prayer is not one option or one priority in the Christian life; it must be **the priority** because everything in life derives from it. However, what that pray life will look like is going to be different for every person.

Like exercise, we must understand what the goal of prayer is, in order to create a plan for prayer. The first truth is that prayer is *not* about telling God things He already knows as if He somehow doesn't know about them. It is also *not* about changing God's mind or his plan in a given situation. Rather, prayer is about changing the one who prays. We must also realize that human beings *never* begin the process of prayer. We pray when we are empowered by the Holy Spirit and strengthened by grace. Prayer then is founded first and foremost on what God is doing in our lives. Our ‘job’ is really to discern how God is calling us to pray. We need not compare our prayer life to the prayer life of another; in fact that can be counterproductive. Your prayer life is *your* prayer life. You and God will communicate in the way that God calls you to communicate with Him. God knows better than you do how you can best hear Him. And if you are open, God will lead you to how you should properly pray.

We must also realize that our pray life is fluid and will change over time. As you change, grow and develop as a person, so will your prayer life change. It is natural and necessary for that to happen. Hence, the best way to discern how your prayer life should unfold is by trial and error. Try to pray at different times during the day. Try to pray for different lengths of time. Try different styles of prayer. Remember that it is *not* about ‘one size fits all’, but what works best for you. Yes, there are certain aspects of prayer that are essential for all Catholics: e.i.,

Sunday Mass and Confession. But, beyond that, in your devotional life you need to create a plan that is flexible and workable for you. And, to create that plan it is necessary to truly understand the goal of every prayer life.

The goal is simple: you are called to seek God—not simply to love Him, but to fall in love with God as He has fallen in love with you. That is the challenge and the ultimate gift of prayer.

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

Please keep me in your prayers.

Fr. Brian



## From our Faith Formation Associate

Shaun Bradley

### ***“What are you doing?” “Nothing.”***

How many of us reply this way when we are, in fact, doing something, usually during a period of rest or recreation? How many of us say “nothing” because we think what we are doing is insignificant or unimportant, as compared to things like working, cleaning, cooking, or any number of other chores and responsibilities? And yet, the things we tend to do during these times of “nothing” are, in fact, important. As much as our restless society tells us we should always be doing something rather than nothing, doing “nothing” is actually good; in fact as science tells us, it is vital. Things happen to our body while we sleep. We may call this nothing, but the healing, the growing, and the energy we gain from sleep are vital to our survival. Doing nothing while we sleep is what ultimately allows us to do anything while we are awake. Likewise, recreation and leisure are vital for reducing stress and anxiety. So, even though we appear to be doing nothing and may even claim to be doing nothing, we are actually doing something.

The same might be said about the Church season we are about to enter—Ordinary Time. Seemingly, nothing goes on in Ordinary Time. There are no big celebrations like Christmas or Easter, nor are we actively preparing for those big celebrations as we do in Advent and Lent. There are no specific themes that we have to pay attention to, and there is nothing out of the ordinary that we have to do. And yet, this period of “nothing” is just as important as the nothings we do in the rest of life. This side of Heaven, we can’t stay in a state of hyper-vigilance at all times. On this side of Heaven, we can’t constantly celebrate the Incarnation or Resurrection to the fullest. We can’t constantly prepare for the Second Coming or for Judgment. We can’t stay vigilant to that extent at all times, and Our Lord knows it.

So many things in our faith parallel earthly life. Just as we need to do “nothing” to properly take care of ourselves, we also need a Church season to do “nothing.” We need time where there is no special theme, where we don’t need to go above and beyond. As easily as we can burn out in life if we are constantly at our limit, spiritual burnout is even easier. So, Ordinary Time has “nothing” going on for our sake. All of the Liturgical Seasons are ultimately for our sake, and Ordinary Time is for the sake of avoiding burnout in the spiritual life. We need moments of rest between the moments of intensity; we need rest between the reps of our spiritual workout; we need time for the lessons of the other seasons to take root.

So, as we do “nothing” during this first stretch of Ordinary Time, remember that we are in fact doing something—something vital to our spiritual well-being and growth.

## From Our Sr. Priest in Residence

Fr Arnold Colletti

### **Come To Me**

Jesus calls us to respond to him. He speaks of this response initially as coming to him. To come to Jesus is the first step on the way to faith. In the first chapter of John’s gospel when Jesus meets the disciples of John the Baptist for the first time, he says to them, “Come and see.” They came, they saw, and eventually they went on to believe in him. Jesus’ call to come to him is given even to those who already believe. He calls those who believe to come closer to him in order to believe more fully, more deeply. As followers of Jesus, we spend our whole lives coming to him. We never fully come to him in this life; we will never fully grasp him, either with our minds or with our hearts. We are always on the way towards him. No matter where we are on our faith journey, the Lord keeps calling us to come. “Come to me and I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11: 28). And “Come follow me.” (Matthew 19:21).

Jesus declares in the gospel that nobody can come to him unless drawn by the Father. We cannot come to Jesus on our own—we need God’s help. The good news is that God the Father is always drawing us to his Son. When Jesus says to us, “Come”, we are not left to our own devices at that point. God the Father will be working in our lives helping us to come to his Son Jesus. He will draw us to Jesus. There is always more going on in our relationship with Jesus than just our own human efforts, and that should give us great encouragement; we know from experience that our own efforts can fail us in the area of our faith as in other areas. Coming to Jesus, growing in our relationship with him, is not all up to us. God the Father is at work in our lives moving us towards his Son, drawing us towards Jesus. There is a momentum within us that is from God, a momentum that will lead us to Jesus if we are in any way open to it.



## 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.

## St. John the Evangelist

<b>SAT, JAN 4</b>	4 pm	<b>MEMORIALS:</b> Rev Daniel P Bowen, Rev Paul R Franz, Gail M Freswick, Rev Peter T Martocchio, John and Margaret Powell <b>ANNIVERSARY:</b> Jeanne O'Brien (1st)
<b>SUN, JAN 5</b>	930 am	<b>MEMORIALS:</b> Thomas Aspell, Leslie Belken, Curran Family, Alice and Patrick Curran, Joseph Finlay, Christine and Carlton Johnson
	6 pm	People of the Parish
<b>MON, JAN 6</b>	9 am	Paul Harhen: Memorial
<b>TUE, JAN 7</b>	9 am	Carol Pilat: Memorial
<b>WED, JAN 8</b>	9 am	LIVING: Healing and Peace for Lynn Anne LaDuke
<b>THU, JAN 9</b>	9 am	LIVING: Happy Birthday Shana Jaques
<b>FRI, JAN 10</b>	9 am	William Harte: 1st Anniversary
<b>SAT, JAN 11</b>	4 pm	People of the Parish
<b>SUN, JAN 12</b>	930 am	John O'Keeffe: 1st Anniversary Angela O'Keeffe: 7th Anniversary
	6 pm	Judy White: Memorial

## St. Margaret of Scotland

<b>SAT, JAN 4</b>	4 pm	Memorials: Jack Kelley, Dan and Grace Moynihan
<b>SUN, JAN 5</b>	7:30 am	People of the Parish
	10 am	Roland Neveux: 7th Anniversary
<b>MON, JAN 6</b>	8 am	Vincent Latham: Memorial
<b>TUE, JAN 7</b>	8 am	Rita Doherty: Memorial
<b>WED, JAN 8</b>	8 am	Jerry Coutu: Birthday Memorial
<b>THU, JAN 9</b>	8 am	Fr Paul F Manning: Memorial
<b>FRI, JAN 10</b>	8 am	Hai Nguyen: Memorial
<b>SAT, JAN 11</b>	4 pm	Leo Carbonneau Sr: Birthday Memorial
<b>SUN, JAN 12</b>	7:30 am	Richard J Foley: 22nd Anniversary
	10 am	People of the Parish

## St. Mary Parish

<b>SAT, JAN 4</b>	4 pm	<b>MEMORIALS:</b> Laura and Aime Beauregard, Kathleen and Charles Cooper, Michael Murphy, Alfred and Fernande Therrien
<b>SUN, JAN 5</b>	7 am	People of the Parish
	11am	John Madigan: 8th Anniversary
<b>MON, JAN 6</b>	7 am	Members of Spiritual Society and Renewal Fund
<b>WED, JAN 8</b>	7 am	Bob Bennett: Memorial
<b>THU, JAN 9</b>	7 am	Jeremy Boisvert: Memorial
<b>FRI, JAN 10</b>	7 am	Brian Foster: Memorial
<b>SAT, JAN 11</b>	4 pm	John Gonsalves Sr: Memorial
<b>SUN, JAN 12</b>	7 am	James E Walsh: Memorial
	11am	People of the Parish



## Altar Flowers

You are invited to donate a floral arrangement to be displays on the altar in Memory of, or in honor of, a loved one at any of our churches. The donation for an arrangement is \$40.

## Lamps



At any of our churches, you can request that the sanctuary lamp burn In Memory of a loved one.

St. Margaret also has two additional lamps—the Blessed Mother Lamp and the Sacred Heart Lamp. The stipend “for any of these lamps is \$25.

St. John Sanctuary Lamp  
**In Memory Of Martin J Steed Sr,  
Grace M Steed, Mary Blanche Steed**



## 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. The donation is \$25.

**In Memory of Florence Mahoney**



## Missal Memorial

These missals are rotated through our churches on a quarterly basis for an entire year, beginning on the First Sunday of Advent and extending to the end of the liturgical year. This has the potential of 52 different people/families praying for your loved one... a beautiful way to build community through the powerful grace of prayer! The donation is \$50 per name. To have a loved one remembered in this way, 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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