

Chelmsford Catholic Collaborative

Home to St. Mary and St. John the Evangelist Parish Families



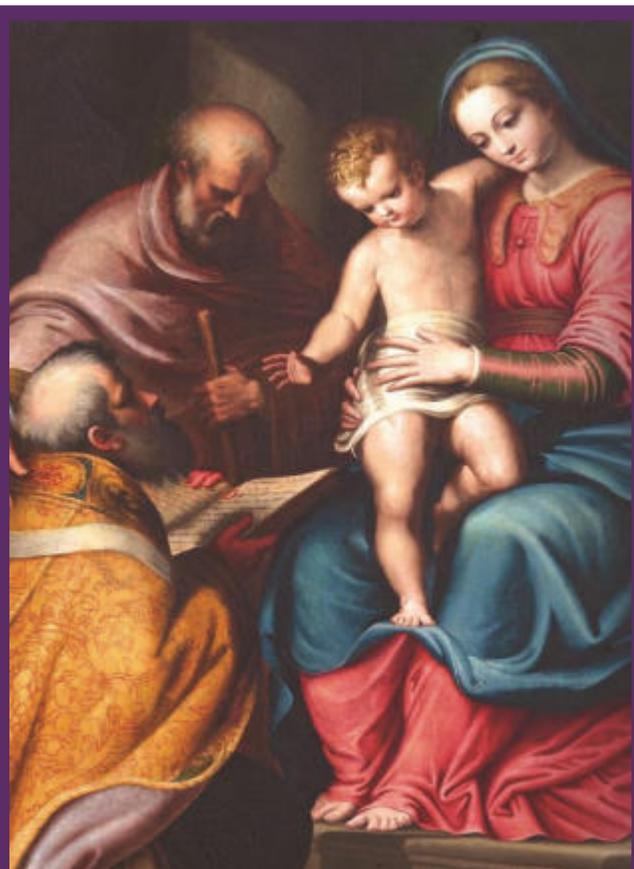
St. John the Evangelist Church · 115 Middlesex Street, North Chelmsford, 01863

St. Mary Church · 25 North Road, Chelmsford, 01824

Parish Offices · 115 Middlesex Street, North Chelmsford, 01863

(978) 251-8571 · (978) 256-2374 · fax (978) 293-0303 · www.chelmsfordcatholic.org

Just as our Blessed Mother Mary and the Evangelist, called John, came together at the foot of the Cross to serve Christ crucified, so also do the parish families bearing their names come together to serve God by serving each other and all who make up the Body of The Risen Lord.



December 27, 2020

Feast of the Holy Family

The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom, and the favor of God was upon him

-Luke 2:40

PARISH OFFICE HOURS **

The Parish Offices remain closed until further notice.
Our phones will be answered during the following hours:

Mondays and Wednesdays • 9 AM - 12 NOON

Tuesdays and Thursdays • 2 PM - 5 PM

No phone hours on Fridays.

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE (*RESERVATIONS REQUIRED)

St. Mary * • Saturday at 4 PM/ Sunday at 7 AM and 11 AM

St. John * • Saturday at 4 PM/ Sunday at 9:30 AM and 6 PM

St. John African Mass • 2nd, 3rd, 4th Sunday of the Month • 12 PM

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE (RESERVATIONS NOT REQUIRED)

Monday - Friday • 7 AM at St. Mary/ 9 AM at St. John

All Masses can be livestreamed

SUNDAY CURBSIDE COMMUNION **

St. John • 3:00 - 3:30 PM / St. Mary • 4:30 - 5:00 PM

DAILY DEVOTIONS LIVESTREAM SCHEDULE **

Monday - Friday at 3 PM • Chaplet of Divine Mercy at St. John

Monday - Friday at 7 PM • Rosary at St. Mary

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION **

Mondays • 4:00 - 5:00 PM • St. John

Wednesdays • 4:30 - 5:30 PM • St. Mary

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION **

Fridays • 4:00 - 5:00 PM • St. John Parking Lot

PRAYER LINE

To have prayers said for yourself or a loved one, call the parish office and ask for ext. 223. After hours, press 4.

** please read entire bulletin for potential schedule changes



facebook.com/ChelmsfordCath



[Chelmsford Catholic Collaborative](https://www.youtube.com/ChelmsfordCatholicCollaborative)



instagram.com/chelmsfordcatholic

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

at St. John at St. Mary [Church or Chapel] at both
RESERVATION REQUIRED for all weekend liturgies

Sunday, December 27

Weekend Liturgy • 7:00 and 11 am • St. Mary
Weekend Liturgy • 9:30 am and 6 pm • St. John
African Liturgy • 12 noon • St. John
Curbside Communion • 3:00 - 3:30 pm
Curbside Communion • 4:30 - 5:00 pm
Holy Hour w/Benediction • CANCELLED

Monday, December 28

Daily Mass • 7 am at St. Mary/ 9 am at St. John
LIVEVIEW Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3:00 pm
Curbside Confessions • 4:00 - 5:00 pm
LIVEVIEW Rosary • 7:00 pm

Tuesday, December 29

Daily Mass • 7 am at St. Mary/ 9 am at St. John
LIVEVIEW Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3:00 pm
LIVEVIEW Rosary • 7:00 pm

Wednesday, December 30

Daily Mass • 7 am at St. Mary/ 9 am at St. John
LIVEVIEW Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3:00 pm
Curbside Confessions • 4:30 - 5:30 pm
LIVEVIEW Rosary • 7:00 pm

Thursday, December 31

Daily Mass • 7 am at St. Mary/ 9 am at St. John
Mary Mother of God Mass • 5 pm
LIVEVIEW Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3:00 pm
LIVEVIEW Rosary • 7:00 pm

Friday, January 1

Mary Mother of God Mass • 9:00 am
Mary Mother of God Masses • 7 am, 7 pm
LIVEVIEW Chaplet of Divine Mercy • CANCELLED
Parking Lot Adoration • CANCELLED
LIVEVIEW Rosary • CANCELLED

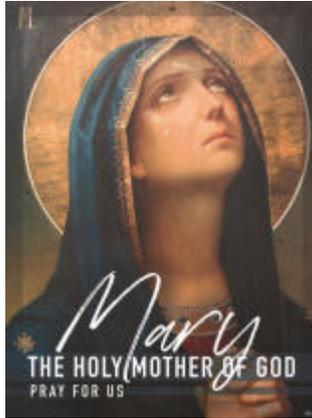
Saturday, January 2

Weekend Liturgy • 4:00 pm Mass • St. Mary
Weekend Liturgy • 4:00 pm Mass • St. John

Sunday, January 3

Weekend Liturgy • 7:00 and 11 am • St. Mary
Weekend Liturgy • 9:30 am and 6 pm • St. John
Curbside Communion • 3:00 - 3:30 pm
Curbside Communion • 4:30 - 5:00 pm
Holy Hour w/Benediction • 7:00 pm • St. Mary

Mary, the Holy Mother of God



Mass Schedule

Holy Day of Obligation

Thursday, December 31st

St. John at 5 pm

Friday, January 1st

St. Mary at 7 am and 7 pm
St. John at 9 am

*Fr. Brian, Fr. Corey, Fr. Colletti,
Deacon John and the entire Collaborative
Staff wish you and those you love a
Happy, Healthy and Blessed 2021!*



Come, Holy Spirit,
Spirit of the Risen Christ, be with us today and always.
Be our Light, our Guide, and our Comforter.
Be our Strength, our Courage, and our Sanctifier.
May this new year be...

A time of deep spiritual growth for us,
A time of welcoming your graces and gifts,
A time for forgiving freely and unconditionally,
A time for growing in virtue and goodness.

Come, Holy Spirit,
Be with us today and always.
Amen.



In honor of the New Year holiday, there will no staff to answer phones on Thursday, December 31st or Friday, January 1st. **Both phone-in AND online reservations for the weekend of January 2nd/3rd will close on Wednesday, December 30th at noon.**

Additionally, the following will be cancelled:

- LIVEVIEW Chaplet on Friday, January 1st
- LIVEVIEW Rosary on Friday, January 1st
- PARKING LOT Adoration on Friday, January 1st

Feast of the Holy Family

The Feast of the Holy Family is not just about the Holy Family, but about our own families too. The main purpose of the Feast is to present the Holy Family as the model for all Christian families, and for domestic life in general. Our family life becomes sanctified when we live the life of the Church within our homes. This is called the "domestic church" or the "church in miniature." St. John Chrysostom urged all Christians to make each home a "family church," and in doing so, we sanctify the family unit. Just how does one live out the Church in the family? The best way is by making Christ the center of family and individual life. Ways to do this include: reading scripture regularly, praying daily, attending Mass at least on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation, imitating the actions of the Holy Family, going to confession frequently, and so forth, all done together as a family unit.

The Holy Family feast is a good time to remember the family unit and pray for our human and spiritual families. We also may take this feast to reflect on the value and sanctity of the family unit, and to evaluate our own family life. What ways may it be improved? What would Jesus, Mary, and Joseph do?

The family is the most essential space for the formation of values and character. Practicing your faith as a family can happen both internally and externally. Consistent prayer together builds habits that can last a lifetime. With younger children, praying together as a family in the evening or at dinnertime could be fairly doable most nights. In the evening, select a few common prayers such as the Our Father, Hail Mary, or Guardian Angel prayer. Ask each of your children to thank God for three things that day and include a time for children and adults alike to pray out loud for special needs in your family. This practice could be done with older children, committed to intentional efforts in the midst of increasingly busy schedules.

Look for other opportunities to practice the faith outside the home as well. Sunday Mass is hopefully already a part of your family's weekly routine. Consider setting other monthly goals as well. This could be a family service project in your city, attending the sacrament of Confession together, or hosting a hospitality night in your home. Get your children involved in the planning process. Ask them where they'd like to volunteer or who they think is having a hard time and might need a special night just for them. Rather than simply imposing new practices, your whole family can have a dynamic role understanding and integrating faith and life.

Finally, we can use this feast to ask ourselves what we are doing to promote the family within our own cultures, neighborhoods, and communities.



This year marks the 128th Anniversary of St. John the Evangelist Parish!

**Established
January 1, 1893**

Join
Deacon
John,
Bishop
Hennessey
and
Fr. Corey



Deluxe Pilgrimage to the Holy Land
April 3 - 13, 2022 • \$5,299 pp/ double occupancy

- First Class Hotel Accommodation
- Visit to a Market in Nazareth
- Wine Tasting at the American Colony Hotel courtyard
- Visit to the Western Wall and Jewish Quarters
- Dinners at Satya Restaurant & Wine & Cheese
- Restaurant on rooftop of Notre Dame



A flyer with ALL details can be found on our website!

The Financial Page

Fiscal Year 2021 runs from July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

Paul Firicano, Collaborative Business Manager
ext 220 or pfiricano@chelmsfordcatholic.org

Due to early submittals to the printer because of the upcoming New Year's holiday, the offertory report for the weekend of December 19th/20th will be published in the January 3rd bulletin.

St. Mary Weekly Offertory	Weekend of December 12th/13th	Fiscal Year-To-Date December 13th	Fiscal YTD Average/Week
Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses	\$15,100	\$362,400	\$15,100
Actual Received	\$20,966	\$345,296	\$14,387
Shortfall/ Overage	\$5,866	-\$17,104	-\$713

St. John Weekly Offertory	Weekend of December 12th/13th	Fiscal Year-To-Date December 13th	Fiscal YTD Average/Week
Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses	\$10,000	\$240,000	\$10,000
Actual Received	\$9,414	\$195,620	\$8,151
Shortfall/ Overage	-\$586	-\$44,380	-\$1,849

Support St. Mary and St. John Parishes

**with an IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)
before December 31, 2020**

People who are 70½ or older and have traditional IRAs may use them to make charitable gifts in 2020, even though an RMD is not required this year. Both convenient and tax-advantaged, a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) from an IRA allows a donor to direct pre-tax assets to charitable organizations, like St. Mary's or St. John's, without incurring any tax. The charitable distribution is not recognized as income, so donors receive a tax benefit regardless of whether they itemize. Gifts of any amount, up to a ceiling of \$100,000 per IRA plan owner per calendar year, may be made this way.

Another reason to consider a QCD is that it can provide a way to reduce the balance in IRAs so that future RMD income may be reduced, minimizing exposure to increased Medicare premiums and other tax issues.

As we need to keep the finances separate, when making a gift, please be sure to indicate to which parish, St. Mary or St. John, you would like your gift processed.

Your generosity will help St. Mary or St. John to continue building the programs and ministries for the present and future growth of our faith communities. Please feel free to contact your financial advisor for additional information about using your IRA to make a gift to your parish.

- Visit www.chelmsfordcatholic.org
- Click on the WeShare logo in the right-hand sidebar on the homepage
- Choose your Giving Opportunity (Weekly Offertory)
- Set up your payment options (using a credit card, checking or savings account) withdrawal dates, etc
- If you prefer, there is an option to make a one-time donation.



- Visit www.chelmsfordcatholic.org and click on the Online Giving in the right-hand sidebar on the homepage
- Click on 'Set up New Account'
- Set up your payment options (using a credit card, checking or savings account) withdrawal dates, etc
- If you prefer, there is a "Quick Give" option to make a one-time donation.

THANK
you

In case we have failed to say it lately, THANK YOU for your continued financial support of our parishes. Your generosity is an example of a true servant spirit, esteeming others more than yourself, and putting Kingdom priorities ahead of your own. We are grateful!

Family Faith Formation Program

Faith Formation Coordinators

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ekindler@chelmsfordcatholic.org

Heather Hannaway
Director of Faith Formation
hhannaway@chelmsfordcatholic.org

Courtney Callanan
Asst. Director of Faith Formation
ccallanan@chelmsfordcatholic.org

Lynn Anne LaDuke
lynnanne@chelmsfordcatholic.org

P.L.A.N.S. FOR THE WEEK OF DEC 27th - JAN 2nd

**PREPARE
TO LEARN
AWESOME!
NEW STUFF**

All Families

- Attend/Watch Sunday Mass together as a family
- Refer to the December "Our Prayer Journal - Praying with Music" booklet
- Focus on Week Four: Gregorian Chant (page 8)
- Pray with Gregorian Chant as a family 15 minutes each day this week
- Track your progress on your December: Family Faith Fundamentals Tracking Page

Grade One and Two Families

- Continue to practice memorizing Basic Catholic Prayers while saying them out loud together
Children will earn a prayer brag tag for each prayer they can recite from the Talking With God Prayer Log (see last page)
- Complete a Children's Bulletin

Grade Two Families

- Complete Session 5: Your First Reconciliation: Sessions 5.1-5.6
- Complete Session 5 worksheets "Show What You Know/ Journaling with Jesus"
- Complete a "My Holy Mass" worksheet after attending or watching Mass together this week

Grade Seven and Eight Families

- Refer to Altaration: The Mystery of Mass Revealed Syllabus
- Complete Session 2: Our Father's Plan (pages 13-27)
- Complete an Altaration Session Reflection [www.chelmsfordcatholic.org/altaration-session-reflection]

Confirmation I Families

- Refer to Chosen: Your Journey Toward Confirmation Syllabus
- Complete Lessons 4 and 5 (pages 25-44)
- Complete a Chosen Lesson Reflection [<https://chelmsfordcatholic.org/chosen-lesson-reflection>]

Confirmation II Families

- Refer to Chosen: Your Journey Toward Confirmation Syllabus
- Complete Lesson 16 (pages 145-154)
- Complete a Chosen Lesson Reflection [<https://chelmsfordcatholic.org/chosen-lesson-reflection>]

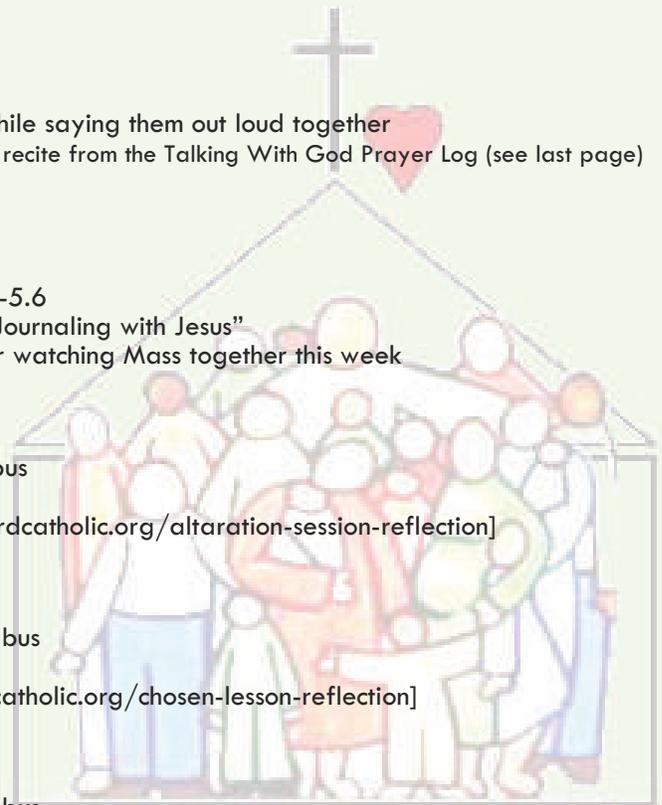
St. Margaret Confirmation II Families

- Refer to Chosen: Your Journey Toward Confirmation Syllabus
- Complete Lessons 3-4 (pages 15-34)
- Complete a Chosen Lesson Reflection [<https://chelmsfordcatholic.org/chosen-lesson-reflection>]

Upcoming Deep Dives [www.chelmsfordcatholic.org/deep-dives]

[*all videos are on our YouTube Channel/ link can be found on our website banner]

- Sunday, Jan 3rd: Saintly Stories: St. Tarcisus: YouTube video presentation
- Sunday, Jan 3rd: Celebration Epiphany: At Home Activity [www.chelmsfordcatholic.org/celebrating-epiphany]



From Our Pastor

When we think of the Holy Family, we can have an idyllic sense of their existence.

I mean two of them never committed a sin in their life, and the other was described by the Gospels as a righteous man. So, what could possibly go wrong with a family like this? Well, begin with the place where Jesus was born—in a cave/barn, and then He was laid in a manger, an eating place for animals. Shortly after his birth ‘the powers that be’ decided that He needed to die, and so his family had to flee and go into exile. Jesus spent the first years of his life as a refugee in Egypt. Remember that they were poor, and therefore, this could not have been an easy time for them. When they were finally able to return home, they had to choose carefully where they would live: a different group of people had their eyes on possibly killing Jesus.

It is easy to imagine that all this would work out simply because Jesus was the Son of God, but that is *not* how God works. He still allows human free will to get in the way of his plans. But God will adapt our actions to ensure that his plans come to be manifest, but in the small details we can make things more difficult. The early life of Jesus was most likely a very difficult and traumatic time with all the issues that they, as a family, had to confront. It was likely anything but idyllic and perfect.

But, at the same time, I do believe their home knew much joy and peace even in the midst of the upheavals they encountered. Why? There is a simple answer—they trusted that God was with them, and they sought in all they did to follow the way of the Lord. What many people try to fit into their lives, Mary and Joseph, as parents, made a priority. Their priorities enabled them to traverse all that conspired against them and live a “normal” life.

It is clear that from how Jesus lived his life He knew the scriptures. How did Jesus come to understand his role as Messiah? He knew the scriptures. I think there can be little doubt that He learned them from his parents. He was well versed in what the scriptures taught about God’s expectations and how to live out those expectations. He came to understand the person God had created Him to be in his humanity. What is true of Jesus is true for all of us. When we were born, we were not given a blank slate to draw on and decide how the direction our life should go. Rather, God made a personal decision to create each one of us, and when He did He also created a plan for our life. God has expectations for you as much as He had for Christ. And like Christ, you are part of God’s plan of salvation in the lives of others. We must come to understand his plan. What causes the greatest strife in our lives is our unwillingness to discern who we truly are, by understanding the person God created us to be. The scriptures are an important part in helping us discern

God’s plan for our lives. They are, in essence, the instruction book for how to live life and live it to the full. When the scriptures are not part of our lives, we are living our lives somewhat blindly. And that is when much anxiety and stress comes to overwhelm us. Mary and Joseph understood this and thus made the scriptures an essential part of their family life.

The second and equally important way they dealt with the trials of their family life was in daily prayer. How often I hear people say that they are simply too busy to pray and that God understands. And they are correct: God does understand that you have made something else in your life a greater priority than Him. This actually is the greatest source of anxiety in our lives. The more distant we are from God, the greater the anxiety in our life. I really believe that our ability to handle whatever happens in life is directly proportional to how much we pray. God does not need our prayers; He gains no benefit from our praying, but prayer helps *us* manage the stress and turmoil of life. Prayer is not something to fit in when convenient, but rather, is essential to a life truly lived. How can we have a real relationship with God if we do not speak to Him? How can we understand the particular ways God is calling us to live out our lives if we do not give Him the time to tell us? Prayer helps families grow together and is essential to family life. Again, as we look to how Jesus addressed the issues in his own life, it was always through prayer. I have little doubt that prayer was something He learned from Mary and Joseph.

Finally, Mary and Joseph made the essential traditions of their faith part of their family life. We can see that played out in the actions of Christ. He lived and worshiped in the ways that good Jews of his time did. Jesus made that very clear. As Catholics that means going to Mass and making proper use of the other sacraments. These are gifts to us from Jesus and He intends for us to make use of them.

The life of the Holy Family and what made them holy is not difficult to discern. The wonderful thing is that what made their family holy is possible for all families. Holiness is not based on any special graces. It is simply about using what God has given us to live a holy life: scriptures, prayer, and proper worship in the sacraments. As we come into this new year, may we seek as families to emulate the Holy Family and grow in holiness together.

If you have any questions about anything, please do not hesitate to ask me directly, or email me at fr.brian@chelmsfordcatholic.org.

Please keep me in your prayers.

In Christ,
Fr. Brian



FROM OUR
FAITH FORMATION COORDINATOR
ELAINE KINDLER

The Holy Family of [Your Name]

The family is the privileged setting where every person learns to give and receive love ... [it] is also a school that enables men and women to grow to the full measure of their humanity -Pope Benedict XVI

As we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, we're encouraged to model their example of loving God above and before all things, doing the will of God in all aspects of our lives, and loving each other as God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit love each other.

Not all of us are growing up in, or grew up in, families that had quite the same focus in their lives as the Holy Family. Thankfully we're not limited to our biological, immediate families for the nurturing that helps us grow to the full measure of our humanity.

The good news is that there are people in our lives who show us how to love God above and before all things; people who show us how to do the will of God in all aspects of our lives (hard as that may be), and people who love us unconditionally as the Trinity loves. For these people, many and varied, I'm thankful.

The Christmas season and the prospect of a New Year can cause some people to feel alone. This may be truer than ever for many as we come to the end of 2020. But, the best news is that we are children of God! When we were baptized, we became members of the Church... a universal family, which ensures that we are never orphans, never abandoned.

Your family—whichever you count in it—is called to be holy, as Jesus, Mary and Joseph were holy. Let's pray for each other as we begin a New Year, that we may become holier and grow into a gracious family, to the glory of God.

O God, who in the Holy Family left us a perfect model of family life lived in faith and obedience to your will, help us to be examples of faith and love ...
-Pope Benedict XVI

From our Permanent Deacon
Deacon John C. Hunt, Jr.

Nothing will be refused him [St. Joseph],
neither by Our Lady nor by his glorious Son.
-St. Francis de Sales

Our Holy Father Pope Francis has declared a "Year of St. Joseph" from December 8, 2020 to December 8, 2021. The Pope has also written a new Apostolic Letter, *Patris corde* (With a Father's Heart) marking the 150th anniversary of the declaration of St. Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. Francis suggests that many 'ordinary' people who have quietly helped others through the pandemic are images of St. Joseph, himself a 'hidden presence,' who nonetheless played 'an incomparable role in the history of salvation.' Jesus, he says, saw the image of God's tender love in the person of Joseph.

This is great news and a great joy for the Church in these times. Last year, beginning on February 15th, I began the 33-day preparation for Consecration to St. Joseph, a book by Father Donald H. Calloway, MIC from the Marian Fathers in Stockbridge, Massachusetts; and on March 19, the Solemnity of St. Joseph, I consecrated myself entirely to St. Joseph. This book has sold out and had to be reprinted due to the very high demand. I strongly encourage people to get the book.

Here is an endorsement by Dr. Scott Hahn:

"This book is a marvel. It is a summary of the whole of the study of St. Joseph — the wisdom of the saints, the teachings of the popes, and the reflections of theologians. And yet it is readable and accessible to anyone — clergy or laity, men or women, married or single. This book — and consecration to St. Joseph — are gifts not only from Fr. Calloway, but from our Lord, to get us through our current crisis, and all the way home to heaven. Let us look to, and learn from, St. Joseph, the spiritual father of us all."

*Scott Hahn, PhD: Chair of Biblical Theology and the
New Evangelization at Franciscan University of Steubenville.*

I am sad to say that I never had much devotion to St. Joseph, but after reading this AMAZING book have grown to a deep relationship with this great Saint. I now have the image of the sleeping St. Joseph on my fireplace mantel along with the Icon image of St. Joseph hanging in my bed room, and I've learned how important he is to have in our life.

The world needs St. Joseph desperately. He is our Spiritual Father and is known as the terror of demons. Our Lord and Our Lady had a GREAT love of St. Joseph. So should we. Take time to get to know St. Joseph better.

Please know you are all in my prayers.

~ CLERGY ~

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Reverend Corey Bassett-Tirrell, PAROCHIAL VICAR
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Reverend Patrick Alemayo, CSSP
ST. JOHN AFRICAN COMMUNITY CHAPLAIN
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Reverend Arnold Colletti, SR. PRIEST IN RESIDENCE
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Deacon John Hunt, PERMANENT DEACON
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Brannon Lepak, TRANSITIONAL DEACON
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Elaine Kindler, FAITH FORMATION COORDINATOR
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~ ADMINISTRATIVE ~

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Donna Gambon, PART-TIME ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
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Sue Beechin, PART-TIME ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
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Bob Webb, CUSTODIAN
bob@chelmsfordcatholic.org

Sam O'Neill, PART-TIME CUSTODIAN

~ BULLETIN, WEBSITE, SOCIAL MEDIA ~

Christine Trznadel, COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR
ext 214... christine@chelmsfordcatholic.org

In order to promote communication and transparency throughout the Chelmsford Catholic Collaborative, you are encouraged to forward any comments and concerns you may have directly to the Parish Pastoral and Finance Councils.

COLLABORATIVE PARISH COUNCIL

Parish council matters can be sent to:
CollaborativePPC@chelmsfordcatholic.org

Current Council Members are ...

St. John Members

Scott Davidson co-chair
Ray Wagner
Mike Condor
Katrina Horan
Beth Jacavanco
Drew Jubinville
Angela McMaster
Ellen St. George
Augustine Tweneh

St. Mary Members

Peter Lando co-chair
Laura Conte
Rob Donnelly
Karen Drake
Jessica Hägg
Matthew Kunze youth
Cathy Latina
Lori McDonald
Steve McMillan
Alma (Chicki) Rigazio
Paul Therrien

ST. JOHN FINANCE COUNCIL

Finance matters concerning St. John's can be sent to:

SJ.FC@chelmsfordcatholic.org

Current Council Members are ...

John Bagni
Paul Brzezanski

Jeff Brown -chair
Celeste Dunn
Grace Ann Steed

ST. MARY FINANCE COUNCIL

Finance matters concerning St. Mary's can be sent to:

SM.FC@chelmsfordcatholic.org

Current Council Members are ...

Lauren Desforge -chair
Ted Powers

Jack Parsons
Paul Rigazio
Paul Therrien

If you would like to submit a notice for the bulletin, please do so no later than 12 NOON, TWO Fridays prior to the weekend in which you would like it published. Submittals should be emailed to christine@chelmsfordcatholic.org or via US Mail to the Parish Offices at 115 Middlesex Street, North Chelmsford, MA, 01863, ATTN Christine. We will do our best to accommodate your request.



Each winter, Boy Scout Troop 70 provides a Christmas tree collection service in the town of Chelmsford. For a donation of \$10 they will pick up and recycle your tree. To make a reservation for the Boy Scouts to pick up your tree, there is a link in which to register on our website... www.chelmsfordcatholic.org/community-archdiocesan-events

The Gift of Family by Tracy Earl Elliver, MTS

What a year it has been! How will we speak of these times a decade from now? As time goes by, our impressions of this past year will certainly change. How we feel today about dealing with a killer virus and all the chaos surrounding that is still fresh for all. I would assume that most of us right now are also holding those we love a little closer and hugging them a little harder. Hopefully, even if the fears and concerns of 2020 dissipate in the future, the way we feel toward our family should never leave us.

Stewardship is certainly about everything. God has given us so much, great and small, profound and common. One of the greatest gifts that all have received is family. Families take all shapes and sizes and some look very different than others. For some, family is a caretaker or temporary guardian. For others it is a friend when everyone else seems to have vanished. The bottom line is that, to quote a song from many years ago, "people need people."

When God gave the world His only Son, the Incarnation did not come on a cloud or with a flash of light. He was born into a family. Jesus understood the gift of family all his life. Do you think that if having a family wasn't important God would have still included this in the plan of salvation?

As this year draws to a close, remember your stewardship many days begins and ends with the people closest to you. Don't misuse or take for granted this precious gift. God gives us gifts on purpose, even to His only begotten Son.

Happy New Year! but Wait, it's still Christmas!

Catholics in England, during the period from 1558 to 1829 (when Parliament finally emancipated Catholics in England), were prohibited from ANY practice of their faith by law – private or public. It was a crime to BE a Catholic.

"**The Twelve Days of Christmas**" was written in England as one of the "catechism songs" to help young Catholics learn the tenets of their faith – a memory aid, when to be caught with anything in "writing" indicating adherence to the Catholic faith could not only get you imprisoned, it could get you hanged, drawn and quartered, or shortened by a head. The song's gifts are hidden meanings to the teachings of the faith. The "true love" mentioned in the song doesn't refer to an earthly suitor, but to God Himself. The "me" who receives the presents refers to every baptized person. The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus.

In the song, Christ is symbolically presented as a mother partridge which feigns injury to decoy predators from her helpless nestlings, much in memory of the expression of Christ's sadness over the fate of Jerusalem... "How often would I have sheltered you under my wings, as a hen does her chicks, but you would not have it so."

The other symbols mean the following:

- 2 turtle doves: the old and new testaments
- 3 French hens: faith, hope, and charity (the theological virtues)
- 4 calling birds: the four gospels and/or the four evangelists
- 5 golden rings: the first five books of the old testament
- 6 geese a-laying: the six days of creation
- 7 swans a-swimming: the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit and/or the seven sacraments
- 8 maids a-milking: the eight beatitudes
- 9 ladies dancing: the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit
- 10 lords a-leaping: the ten commandments
- 11 pipers piping: the eleven faithful apostles
- 12 drummers drumming: the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostles' Creed



¹I believe in *One God*, the Father the Almighty, ²*Creator* of heaven and earth. ³I believe in *Jesus Christ*, His only Son, our Lord, ⁴who was *conceived by the Holy Spirit*; ⁵*born of the Virgin Mary*, suffered under Pontius Pilate, ⁶was *crucified, died and was buried*. He descended to the dead. ⁷On the third day he *arose* again in fulfillment of the scripture. ⁸He will *come again* in glory to judge the living and the dead. ⁹I believe in the *Holy Spirit*, ¹⁰the *holy Catholic church*, ¹¹the *communion of saints*, ¹²the forgiveness of sins and *life everlasting*.



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 Mass Intention is requested to be made at the time you schedule your intention.

St. John

- SAT, DEC 26** 4:00 pm: Nat Serra: Memorial
- SUN, DEC 27** 9:30 am: Curran, Belken, Johnson and Finlay Families: Memorial
6:00 pm: For the People of the Parish
- MON, DEC 28** 9:00 am: Jack Kandrotas: Memorial
- THUR, DEC 31** 9:00 am: Fred and Agnes Johnson: Memorial
- SAT, JAN 2** 4:00 pm: Missionary Oblates of St. Joseph
All the Priests
All the Souls in Purgatory
Irene and Frank Fisher
Kathleen 'Betty' Kelleher
Thomas Paul Kelleher
- SUN, JAN 3** 9:30 am: Edward Clancy
William and Marie O'Connell
Gloria Tardiff
6:00 pm: For the People of the Parish



St. Mary

- SAT, DEC 26** 4:00 pm: Lillian and Raymond Rousseau: Memorial
- SUN, DEC 27** 7:00 am: For the People of the Parish
11:00 am: Sidney Kerr: 5th Anniversary
- TUE, DEC 29** 7:00 am: Helen Morris: 2nd Anniversary
- WED, DEC 30** 7:00 am: Special Intention
- SAT, JAN 2** 4:00 pm: Arthur St. Amand: 28th Anniversary
- SUN, JAN 3** 7:00 am: For the People of the Parish
11:00 am: Lillian Scott: 20th Anniversary

Let the *Peace* of *Christ*
rule in your *hearts*

Rose for Life

Someone special you'd like to honor? You can do that by having a rose signifying your intention placed in either church, as well as having your intention published in the bulletin. To book a Rose for Life, contact the parish office. The suggested offering is \$5.00.



St. Mary Memorial Altar Flowers



Parishioners are invited to donate a floral arrangement, to be displayed on the altar in memory of, or in honor of, a loved one. The requested donation for an arrangement is \$40, and includes an acknowledgement in the bulletin. If you would like to donate altar flowers, call the parish office. Please note that we require a 2-week notice for your flower order.

**"YOUR WORD IS A
LAMP UNTO MY FEET AND
A LIGHT UNTO MY PATH"
-PSALM 119:105**

MONDAY, DEC 28
1 John 1:5 - 2:2
Psalm 124
Matt 2: 13-18

TUESDAY, DEC 29
1 John 2: 3-11
Psalm 96
Luke 2: 22-35

WEDNESDAY, DEC 30
1 John 2: 12-17
Psalm 96
Luke 2: 36-40

THURSDAY, DEC 31
1 John 2: 18-21
Psalm 96
John 1: 1-18

FRIDAY, JAN 1
Numbers 6: 22-27
Psalm 67
Galatians 4: 4-7
Luke 2:16-21

SATURDAY, JAN 2
1 John 2: 22-28
Psalm 98
John 1: 19-28

SUNDAY, JAN 3
Isaiah 60: 1-6
Psalm 72
Ephesians 3: 2-3, 5-6
Matt 2: 1-12



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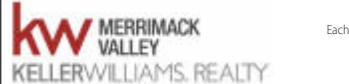


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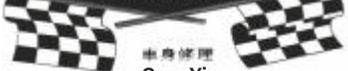

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Matthew Meehan Turco

Matthew Meehan Turco, 42, of Lowell, MA, passed away Monday, November 9, 2020 at Mass General Hospital after a brief illness.

Born in Lowell, he was the son of John P. and Colleen (Meehan) Turco of Chelmsford, MA.

Matthew was educated in the Chelmsford school system and graduated from Chelmsford High School with the class of 1997. He furthered his education and earned his Bachelor's Degree from the University of Rhode Island in Communications and Journalism. He worked many years for the Middlesex Sheriff's Office.

Matthew's love of family, especially his nieces and newborn nephew, was the center of his life. His innate ability to always see the good and kindness in others made him a true gentle man. This quality perpetuated into all avenues of his life. Being a loyal friend and coworker made Matt easily admired and loved by all those who knew him. While not at work, Matthew enjoyed going to the gym and staying active. He was an avid sports fan and enjoyed watching the New England Patriots, Boston Celtics and the Boston Red Sox. One of his favorite events, was the yearly road trip he made with

his Dad and dear friends to watch the Red Sox at opposing-teams' stadiums across the country.

Besides his parents, he is survived by his sisters, Catie Bernier and her husband Jesse Bernier of North Reading, MA and Kara Turco and Robert Pacheco of Chelmsford, MA; two nieces, Anna Bernier and Ayla Bernier both of North Reading, MA, and newborn nephew Jack Pacheco of Chelmsford, MA, as well as many aunts, uncles, cousins and countless friends.

Matt's family wishes to extend a sincere Thank You to Mass General staff for the loving care, expertise and support during this most difficult time.

Visiting hours were Thursday, November 12, 2020 from 5 to 8 P.M. Funeral was Friday, November 13, at 10 A.M from the DOLAN FUNERAL HOME, 106 MIDDLESEX ST., CHELMSFORD, MA followed by a Funeral Mass at 11 A.M at St. John the Evangelist Church, Chelmsford. Interment was at West Chelmsford Cemetery, Chelmsford. In lieu of flowers, Memorial Donations may be made in memory of Matthew Turco to Mass General Hospital c/o Ellison Four, SICU, 125 Nashua Street, Suite 540, Boston, MA 02114 or online at <https://giving.massgeneral.org/donate>. Online guest book is available at www.dolanfuneralhome.com.

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