



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



# January 9, 2022

## Baptism of the Lord

...the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove.

-Luke 22a



### Parish Office Location and Hours



115 Middlesex Street • North Chelmsford, 01863  
(978) 251-8571/ 454-5143/ 256-2374  
[www.theholyrood.org](http://www.theholyrood.org)

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday • 9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Wednesday • 9:30 am - 5:00 pm  
Friday • 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

### Weekend Mass Schedule

St. John • Saturday, 4 pm/ Sunday, 9:30 am and 6 pm  
• African Liturgy, 12 pm: 2nd, 3rd, 4th Sundays  
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 • 8 am - 3 pm • St. Margaret Chapel  
Thursdays • 12:00 - 9:00 pm • St. Mary Adoration Chapel  
First Fridays • 3:00 - 9:00 pm • St. John OPC Chapel

### LIVEVIEW Devotions

Monday - Friday  
3 pm • Chaplet of Divine Mercy at St. John  
7 pm • Rosary at St. Mary

### Prayer Line

To have prayers said for yourself or a loved one, call the parish office and ask for ext. 223. After hours, press 5.

\*Please read entire bulletin for potential schedule changes

# weekly calendar

## Monday, January 10

Bible Study • 10 - 12 am • Virtual Meeting  
LIVEVIEW Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3 pm • St. John  
Confession • 4:30 - 5:30 pm • St. John  
LIVEVIEW Rosary • 7 pm • St. Mary

## Tuesday, January 11

Tuesday Morning Coffee, following St. John 9 am Mass • Hall  
Blood Pressure Clinic, following St. John 9 am Mass • Hall  
LIVEVIEW Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3 pm • St. John  
Confession • 4:30 - 5:30 pm • St. Margaret of Scotland  
Bible Study • 7:00 - 8:45 pm • SM PC Conf Room 1  
St. Margaret Choir Rehearsal • 7 - 9 pm • SMS Church Choir Loft  
LIVEVIEW Rosary • 7 pm • St. Mary

## Wednesday, January 12

Adoration • 9 am - 3 pm • St. Margaret Lady of Lourdes Chapel  
LIVEVIEW Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3 pm • St. John  
Confession • 4:30 - 5:30 pm • St. Mary  
LIVEVIEW Rosary • 7 pm • St. Mary

## Thursday, January 13

Charismatic Prayer Group • 10 am • via ZOOM  
Rosary Making Group • 10:30 am - 12 pm • SM PC Conf Room 2  
Adoration • 12 - 9 pm • SM PC Adoration Chapel  
LIVEVIEW Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3 pm • St. John  
BINGO • doors open 3:30 pm/ first game 6:45 pm • SJE Hall  
LIVEVIEW Rosary • 7 pm • St. Mary

## Friday, January 14

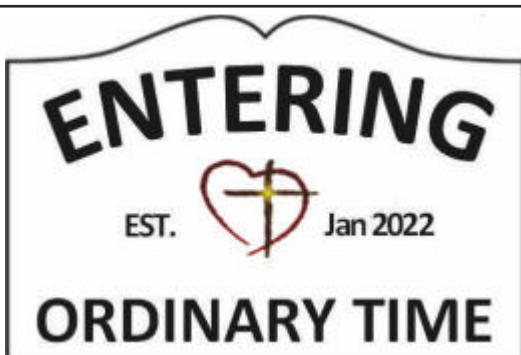
Knitting and Crocheting • 2 - 5 pm • SM Parish Hall  
LIVEVIEW Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3 pm • St. John  
LIVEVIEW Rosary • 7 pm • St. Mary

## Saturday, January 15

Men of St. Joseph • 7 - 8 am • SMS Rectory  
Saturday Men's Group • 7 - 8:45 am • SJE NPC Linehan  
Contemplative Prayer Group • 9:30 - 11 am • ZOOM  
Confessions  
• 11 am - 12 noon at St. Mary  
• 1 - 2 pm at St. Margaret of Scotland  
• 3 - 3:45 pm at St. John the Evangelist  
Handbell Choir Rehearsal • 2:00 - 3:30 pm • SM Choir Loft



The Parish Offices  
will be closed on  
Monday, January 17



It is worth pausing for a moment to reflect and pray about the way the Church thinks about time, because it is so different from the way that the world thinks about it.

There are times of the liturgical year, such as Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter, which are special and particular times of being with Christ.

But what about “Ordinary Time,” into which we are entering? How are we to think about it? It not only fills the gap between the seasons, but it, too, is charged with meaning.

While God entered into our time through the incarnation of His son, and through the mystery of Jesus’ death, resurrection and outpouring of the Holy Spirit, we must be aware that the effects of these graces spill over into EVERY minute of EVERY hour of EVERY day. And as a result, our entire lives are filled with the presence of God, who draws us to Himself and transforms our lives.

Ordinary Time is a time for growth and maturation, a time in which the mystery of Christ is called to penetrate ever more deeply into history until all things are finally caught up in Christ.

Let us welcome and embrace

## ORDINARY TIME

## Clergy

Reverend Brian Mahoney, PASTOR  
fr.brian@theholyrood.org | (978) 254-0560

Reverend Fernando Ayala, PAROCHIAL VICAR  
frfernando@theholyrood.org | ext 237

Reverend Arnold Colletti, SR. PRIEST IN RESIDENCE  
frcolletti@theholyrood.org | ext 116

Reverend Raymond Benoit, SR. PRIEST IN RESIDENCE  
frray@theholyrood.org | ext 115

Deacon John C. Hunt, Jr., PERMANENT DEACON  
deaconjohn@theholyrood.org | (978) 254-2696

Deacon Frank Perez de Alderete, PERMANENT DEACON  
deaconfrank@theholyrood.org | (978) 633-5408

Deacon Barry V. Lloyd., SR. PERMANENT DEACON  
deac5@comcast.net

## Outreach & Parish Ministry

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srlori@theholyrood.org | ext 225

## Business Office

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Tina Sousa, FINANCE & FACILITY SUPPORT  
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## Facilities

Dan Heider, FACILITIES MANAGER  
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## Bulletin, Website, Social Media

Christine Trznadel, COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR  
christine@theholyrood.org | (978) 254-4406

# Turn page for *more*

St. John's Prayer  
& Contemplation  
Group

## NEW TO OUR COLLABORATIVE

The Holy Rood Collaborative is offering a new monthly prayer and contemplation group beginning NEXT Saturday, January 15. We will meet on the third Saturday of every month from 9:30 - 11 am.

We cordially invite you to join us via zoom on the third Saturday of each month. Registration is required by emailing [stjohnprayerandcontemplation@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnprayerandcontemplation@gmail.com)



## St. John Tuesday Morning Coffee Group

We are a group of men and women who gather together for fellowship following daily mass on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

Join us THIS TUESDAY, January 11th

## Monthly Blood Pressure Clinics

Tuesday, January 11  
Following 9 am Mass  
St. John Parish Hall

Friday, January 21  
Following 8 am Mass  
St. Margaret Sacred Heart Hall



## St. Margaret of Scotland weekly Adoration is HERE

Every Wednesday... 9 am—3 pm  
St. Margaret Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel



If you would like to volunteer to assist with this ministry or commit to an hour, email Ed Olivieri at [edoliveri@aol.com](mailto:edoliveri@aol.com) or phone him at (978) 551-2944.

# of what's happening in The Holy Rood

## SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE SUNDAY SUNDAY, JANUARY 16TH

Before birth the LORD called me,  
from my mother's womb He gave me my name.

The Catholic Church **teaches that all human life is sacred** (sanctity of life) and that everyone has a right to life which should be protected and valued at every stage. The Catholic Church is against abortion in all circumstances. The Catholic Church teaches that life begins at conception.

On January 13, 1984, President Ronald Reagan issued a proclamation designating January 22 as the first National Sanctity of Human life Day [January 22, 1973 was the day the US Supreme Court legalized abortion-on-demand in all 50 states].

This January marks the 49th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision, legalizing abortion on demand. In the United States alone, over 62.5 million infants have lost their lives to abortion. Recently, Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Center brought abortion back to the Supreme Court, opening the door to a new hope that all life will be protected.

As Christians, our purpose is to save and transform lives and share the love of Christ. When a pregnancy is unexpected, it can be difficult to see this new little life as a gift. We help women and men see the beauty, joy and value of this new life. We are excited to announce that we will soon offer ultrasound services at all three of our center locations, giving a new mother the chance to see her baby and hopefully choose life.

We trust that this year will be a turning point in protecting God's children, but we need your help now more than ever. Please consider donating to the work of the Pregnancy Care Center, honoring God and His beautiful creation. You can donate at [www.PCCFriends.org](http://www.PCCFriends.org). Thank you!

### **PREGNANCY CARE CENTER**

Free and Confidential Unplanned Pregnancy Support  
Pregnancy Testing - Ultrasound - Mentoring  
Education - Material Services  
(978) 373-5718 PCCFriends.org

## 2022 GRAND ANNUAL

You have most likely received a letter announcing and inviting you to participate in the 2022 Grand Annual. You may notice that this letter is dated December 6th. "Why the delay?" you might be asking. As many of you may know, the COVID pandemic has caused many shortages in materials, from computer chips, to cat food, to envelopes. Yes, even envelopes! Thank you for your understanding.

## 2021 TAX LETTERS

Tax Letters for parishioners who contributed \$250 or more in 2021 will be mailed out by the end of January. If you are NOT in this category, but would like to receive a tax letter, please contact Paul Firicano. You can leave a voice mail or write an email leaving the following information: your name, address, envelope number (if you have one) and to which church you make your offertory donations.



As we enter the new year, what better time for me to extend my gratitude to all of you!

As many of you know, I was hospitalized with COVID last month. It was an unexpected turn of events, but God, in His great wisdom, knew best how to get me to the only place where I could receive the care that I was not even aware that I needed.

During this time, I was not only surrounded by, but carried by your prayers, your cards, and your emails. It was during these uplifting moments that I truly realized what a gift all of you are to me. I feel extremely blessed to work for you and be at your service.

At home now, I am nearly fully recovered, and I am happy to begin getting back to 'normal.'

Again... Thank you and wishing all a Happy and Healthy New Year!

-Christine

# Collaborative Community!

ST. JOHN'S SEMINARY presents  
A FREE webinar January 18 at 7 pm  
Presented by Fr. John Gavin, SJ



## Examining the Our Father



The Fathers of the early centuries of Christianity include saints, scholars, bishops, priests, laity, and ascetics, who are all united in their hunger to know the Lord. Thus, we could ask for no better guides in a prayerful examination of the Our Father. This presentation will introduce some of these major interpreters—Cyprian of Carthage, Augustine of Hippo, Maximus the Confessor and others—and share their wisdom regarding the transformative power of Christ's command to "pray like this." To register, visit...

<https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/6916364815889/>

Saturday, June 18, 2022 | 8:30 am - 6 pm  
Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell

Tickets | Before March 31, 2022: \$39  
| After April 1, 2022: \$49



Cardinal Seán O'Malley invites all the Catholic faithful in the Archdiocese of Boston and surrounding dioceses to join him in closing the Year of the Eucharist with a day-long **Eucharistic Congress, Jesus is Here.**

A core tenet of the Catholic faith is that the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ is made truly present in the Eucharist. But belief in the True Presence has waned in recent years, even among Catholics. And that's a concern—because as Cardinal Seán teaches, "it is in the Eucharist where we find our true identity." **Jesus is Here** is an opportunity for us to deepen our understanding of the mystery of Jesus' presence with us—by listening to powerful talks on the Eucharist, by receiving Jesus in the Eucharist at Mass, and by adoring Him in a time of adoration and worship.

Visit [JesusIsHereBoston.org](https://JesusIsHereBoston.org) to learn more and get your tickets!

## TO HELP YOU PLAN FOR 2022

Schedule of 2022

Second (Archdiocesan) and Fundraising Collections

### JANUARY

23 • Church in Latin America

### FEBRUARY

27 • The Church Around the World

### MARCH

02 • Ash Wednesday Collection  
supporting our parishes

06 • Catholic Charities Collection

13 • Catholic Appeal Commitment Weekend

### APRIL

15 • Good Friday Collection  
Supports The Holy Land Shrines

17 • Easter Sunday Collection  
Supports Clergy Health & Retirement Trust

### MAY

15 • St. Vincent de Paul Annual Collection  
St. Mary and St. John the Evangelist

### JUNE

05 • Seminarians

19 • Promoting the Gospel

### SEPTEMBER

18 • Archdiocesan Collection  
Supports Clergy Health & Retirement Trust

### OCTOBER

02 • The Holy Father & Missionary Efforts

23 • World Mission Sunday

### NOVEMBER

20 • Retired Religious Sisters

### DECEMBER

25 • Christmas Collection

Supports Clergy Health & Retirement Trust

# The Financial Page

Fiscal Year 2021 runs from July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

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

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

## IMPORTANT DONATION REMINDER

When sending in checks, please make it payable to the specific parish—St. John the Evangelist, St. Margaret of Scotland or St. Mary—to whom you are making your donation. As each parish maintains their own financial entity, checks made out to The Holy Rood Collaborative cannot be cashed as The Holy Rood Collaborative is NOT a financial entity. If you have any questions, please contact Paul Firicano.

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION	St. Mary	St. John	St. Margaret
Clergy Retirement Benefit Trust	\$13,812	\$9,770	\$6,826

ST. MARY WEEKLY OFFERTORY	December 26th	Fiscal Year-To-Date December 26	Fiscal YTD Average/Week
Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses	\$15,000	\$390,000	\$15,000
Actual Received	\$14,235	\$364,742	\$14,029
Shortfall/ Overage	-\$765	-\$25,258	-\$971

ST. JOHN WEEKLY OFFERTORY	December 26th	Fiscal Year-To-Date December 26	Fiscal YTD Average/Week
Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses	\$9,500	\$247,000	\$9,500
Actual Received	\$10,436	\$253,290	\$9,742
Shortfall/ Overage	\$936	\$6,290	\$242

ST. MARGARET WEEKLY OFFERTORY	December 26th	Fiscal Year-To-Date December 26	Fiscal YTD Average/Week
Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses	\$5,550	\$144,300	\$5,550
Actual Received	\$5,367	\$113,213	\$4,354
Shortfall/ Overage	-\$183	-\$31,087	-\$1,196

## THANK YOU TO ALL OUR FAITHFUL FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS!

It is only because of your generosity and selflessness that we are able to operate as we do,  
doing our best to serve each and every person that enters our doors.



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.

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# Family Faith Formation Program

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 Faith Formation Coordinator  
 lynnanne@theholyrood.org

Uniting the Heart of the Church with the



Heart of the Home

## CLASS SCHEDULE

## JANUARY DEEP DIVES

### GRADES 1-6 SUNDAY, JANUARY 9

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

St. John Session A  
 10:45 AM - 12:15 PM  
 St. John Parish Hall

St. Mary Session B  
 12:15 - 1:45 PM  
 St. Mary Parish Hall

### FIRST EUCHARIST PREP SUNDAY, JANUARY 30

9:15 - 10:45 AM  
 St. Mary Parish Hall  
 Mock Reconciliation  
 Parents MUST Attend

### GRADES 7-8 SUNDAY, JANUARY 30

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

### GRADES 1-6 SUNDAY, JANUARY 23

St. Margaret Session A  
 8:15 - 9:45 AM  
 Sacred Heart Hall

St. Mary Session C  
 9:15 - 10:45 AM  
 St. Mary Parish Hall

St. John Session B  
 10:45 AM - 12:15 PM  
 St. John Parish Hall

St. Mary Session D  
 12:15 - 1:45 PM  
 St. Mary Parish Hall

### CONFIRMATION I SUNDAY, JANUARY 9 & 30

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

### CONFIRMATION II SUNDAY, JANUARY 23

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

### Catechist Morning of Recollection

Saturday, January 8  
 9:00 - 11:30 am  
 St. Mary Parish Hall

Teaching Baptism  
 Saturday, January 29  
 1 - 2 pm ~ St. John the Evangelist Church

Family Movie Night  
 Saturday, January 29  
 5 - 7 pm ~ St. John Parish Hall

## FEBRUARY DEEP DIVES

Family Lent Event with Reconciliation  
 Wednesday, February 23  
 6:30 - 8:00 pm ~ St. Margaret Church and Hall



## P.L.A.N.S. FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY

All Families should Pray together daily/ Attend Mass weekly/Attend Class or Disciple Group Monthly/ Complete one Deep Dive per Month

Grades 1-6 Children will be gathering to learn about The Last Supper and Parent Discipleship Groups will reflect on full, conscious active participation at Mass

Grades 7 & 8 Students will be completing Altaration Session 4: What is our Response?

Confirmation I Students will be completing Chosen Lesson 5: Who is Jesus? and Lesson 6: Why be Catholic?

Confirmation II Students will be completing Chosen Lesson 17: Who's Calling?

*From the  
Pastor*



Today we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, and with this celebration the Church brings an end to the Christmas Season. I believe that this feast is truly an appropriate way to finish our celebration of this wondrous time of the year. As

I wrote earlier, Christmas really is a prelude to Easter. In a sense it is a foreshadowing of the ultimate crescendo moment of the liturgical year. At Christmas we celebrate the Incarnation—God uniting himself to us in the person of Jesus. Christ becomes one of us in order to die for us. His death made it possible for us to live our life to the fullest. If Christ did not come and die on the cross, we would remain enslaved to sin and stuck in our living death; sin and death would forever rule over us. God does not want this for us and never did. We chose, and still choose, the path of sin and destruction. God created a better way—the way of life through the cross of Christ.

But for God it was not enough to simply have us witness his love through the cross. He understood that we must truly experience its power in order to be released from the hold that sin has over us. And so He created a way for that to happen—our baptism.

Jesus had no need for baptism: unlike us, He never sinned. Jesus' entire life was about seeking the will of the Father and accomplishing that will in all that He did. Jesus lived his human life to the fullest. We must realize that sin is not simply a rejection of God's will, but also a rejection of our very nature. Each time we choose to act in a way contrary to the will of God, we reject what it means to be truly human. We reject our very dignity. We need help to overcome the desires that lead us away from God and down the path of destruction. We need help to be able to live life to the fullest as Christ did. And that is why Christ was baptized.

As Jesus entered the Jordan, He created for us the path of salvation. His entrance into the Jordan was akin to God's parting of the Red Sea. As God led the people of Israel from the land of slavery and, in time, to the Promised Land, so Christ's baptism releases us from bondage and creates a path to our promised land—Heaven.

Christ's entrance into the waters of the Jordan makes holy forever the waters of baptism. In a sense it makes the waters of baptism, the Jordan River. When we are baptized we enter with Christ into the waters of the Jordan, and through his power we are made whole once again. But how does this happen? The very word baptism tells us. The word baptism comes from the Greek and means immersion. As we enter into the waters of the Jordan with Christ, we become immersed into the very life of Christ. As Paul tells us, "Or are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life." (Rom 6:3-4)

Christ's death and resurrection become the very way we are called to live our lives in Him. Our life becomes grounded in baptism, which means we are called to die to ourselves in order to rise to new life in Christ. It is the constant struggle of picking up our cross daily in order to follow Christ.

Baptism preceded Christ's entrance into his public ministry of proclaiming the kingdom of God. And our baptism is what gives us the grace necessary to make Christ's ministry our own. What we celebrate today is as much about us as it is about Christ. We celebrate what it means to be a true Christian—one who is dedicated to seeking the will of God in all things. And we rejoice that in and through our baptism we are forever united to Christ in and through his baptism, death and resurrection. As we bring to an end our celebration of the birth of Christ, we do so by celebrating our own rebirth through our union with Christ in the waters of baptism. We celebrate our entrance into the hope of eternal life found in and through the life and ministry, death, resurrection and ascension of Christ, which is our own through the waters of the Jordan that we entered with Christ.

If you have any questions about anything, please do not hesitate to ask me directly, or send your questions to me at [fr.brian@theholyyood.org](mailto:fr.brian@theholyyood.org).

Please keep me in your prayers.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fr. Brian'.





## From our Faith Formation Associate

Shaun Bradley

Growing up, my favorite episodes of *Looney Tunes* were always the ones that started with Bugs Bunny complaining about how he should have taken a left turn at Albuquerque. While this was mostly because as a child I thought Albuquerque was a funny word, there were other redeeming qualities to the episodes as well, such as Bugs pretending to be a matador, comedic arguments with Daffy Duck, or Bugs outsmarting Elmer Fudd. However, as I've grown older, I've come to appreciate these episodes for a new reason—just how relatable they are.

Now, I know what you're thinking: what is relatable about *Looney Tunes*? Trust me, I'm well aware that most New Englanders have never been to Albuquerque, New Mexico, and I would hope that none of us have gotten into an argument with a duck lately. However, we have all taken wrong turns before, and we have all found ourselves in comical situations as a result. I'm not just talking about wrong turns when driving or walking somewhere. I'm also talking about wrong turns we have made in our lives: the mistakes or bad decisions that led us in the wrong direction. In response to these wrong turns, we can try to be like Bugs Bunny if we want. We can stubbornly push through the situation that we find ourselves in, wasting our time in frustration as others find amusement in our struggles. Or, we can choose to do what Bugs never does—turn around. Bugs knows exactly where he made the wrong turn, so why not go back to take the right turn at Albuquerque.

As Christians, we can recognize this turning around as the message preached by John the Baptist and Jesus. The repentance they preached was one that involved turning one's whole life around. While we may find Bugs' struggles amusing, God does not find our struggles amusing. He doesn't want us to keep stubbornly pushing forward on the wrong path we've chosen. More than anything else, He wants us to acknowledge our mistake, then turn around. He wants us to take the better path, the path that we inherently know is the right one. If Bugs Bunny can identify—while tunneling underground—where he took a wrong turn, we can do the same in our own lives. So, embrace the life of repentance that God offers us. Stop pushing forward down the path of misery and frustration. Let go of the heavy burden of stubbornness and accept the light burden of God instead (Matthew 11:28-30).

## From our Parochial Vicar

Fr. Fernanco Ayala

### Why was Christ Baptized?

- Does not Scripture say to not delay and be baptized to wash away our sins? (Acts 22:16)
- If our Lord Jesus Christ was similar to us in every way but without sin (Hebrews 4:15), why was He baptized?

We can rightly argue that He does not need to be washed by the waters of baptism for there is nothing unclean about Him.

My dear brothers and sisters, our Lord Jesus Christ was baptized not because of His uncleanliness but because of the world's uncleanliness. He was not baptized because of His sins but because of our sins that He bore on His body. He was not baptized because He was following a law but because He was showing us The Law.

At His baptism, although He was clean and without sin, He cleansed the waters of sin. His human flesh that knew not sin, touched the waters to be used by us who knew not His sanctifying grace. Hence, He purified the waters to be used for baptism, making them clean once and for all. He made water not only the source of temporal life for all living creatures but, after being cleansed from the death of sin, He made them also the source of birth into eternal life.

He so loved us that He became like sin (2 Corinthians 5:21). He adopted all of humanity's sinful nature, to raise it to the level of Divinity. Hence, at His baptism, all of humanity's sinful nature was washed away from the Devil's grasp for all those who believe in Him.

Finally, He was not just performing a rite or following a law but He was showing us The Law. A good leader and a good shepherd leads by example. Since He commanded us to be baptized, He too submitted Himself to the same law. At baptism, we unite our humanity to Christ's and hence He raises it to the level of Divinity, making us capable of receiving sanctifying grace. We are allowed to be like Christ through grace.



## 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 to be made at the time you schedule your intention.

### St. John the Evangelist

- SAT, JAN 8** 4:00 pm: People of the Parish
- SUN, JAN 9** 9:30 am: Maurice Pontbriant, Sr: 9th Anniversary
- TUE, JAN 11** 9:00 am: Lucille Fortier: Memorial
- WED, JAN 12** 9:00 am: Carol Ann Powers: Month's Mind
- FRI, JAN 14** 9:00 am: George Kadarian  
LIVING INTENTION: for healing
- SAT, JAN 15** 4:00 pm: Paul O Amirault: 24th Anniversary
- SUN, JAN 16** 9:30 am: People of the Parish

### St. Margaret of Scotland

- SAT, JAN 8** 4:00 pm: People of the Parish
- SUN, JAN 9** 7:30 am: Tom and Leda Dennis: Memorial  
10:00 am: Theresa Bourassa: 13th Anniversary
- MON, JAN 10** 8:00 am: Deceased Members of the Kia Family
- WED, JAN 12** 8:00 am: Anthony Picanso: Birthday Memorial
- FRI, JAN 14** 8:00 am: Robert Lavigne: 4th Anniversary
- SAT, JAN 15** 4:00 pm: Raymond J St Hilaire, Sr: Birthday Memorial
- SUN, JAN 16** 7:30 am: People of the Parish  
10:00 am: Joseph Primeau: Birthday Memorial

### St. Mary Parish

- SAT, JAN 8** 4:00 pm: Delores Dobbins: 4th Anniversary
- SUN, JAN 9** 7:00 am: Ann Sousa: Memorial  
11:00 am: People of the Parish
- TUE, JAN 11** 7:00 am: James Cusick: Month's Mind
- WED, JAN 12** 7:00 am: Marguerite Farley: Birthday Memorial
- SAT, JAN 15** 4:00 pm: People of the Parish
- SUN, JAN 16** 11:00 am: Mr and Mrs William F Marcotte: Memorial

## Rose for Life



Is there someone special you'd like to honor? You can do that by having a rose signifying your intention placed at either St. John or St. Mary, 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.

This week's St. John Rose for Life:  
**In Memory of Vera Lafferty**

## St. Mary 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. If you would like to donate altar flowers, call the parish office. Please note that we require a 2-week notice for your order.



## St. Margaret Lamps

St. Margaret offers the opportunity to have one of three lamps in the church burn In Memory of a loved one. The stipend is \$25, and the dedication will be published in the weekly bulletin.

Blessed Mother Lamp  
**In Memory of Laura Philibert**

## St. Margaret Bells

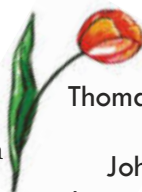


The steeple bells at St. Margaret toll daily at 12 noon and 6 pm, followed by the ringing of the Angelus bell and 2 hymns. At 3 pm, they play 2 hymns, and 15 minutes prior to each weekend Mass, the bells toll a 'call to worship.' If you would like to dedicate the Ringing of the Bells In Memory/In Honor of someone, please contact the parish offices. The stipend is \$25, and your dedication will be published in the weekly bulletin.

**Mary Francis Donovan: Birthday Memorial**

## Funerals Recently Celebrated

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



- Ethel Kenney • Friday, December 31 • St. John
- Dennis Creegan • Tuesday, January 4 • St. John
- Thomas Livingston • Wednesday, January 5 • St. Margaret
- Mary McCann • Wednesday, January 5 • St. Mary
- John Barry Fitzgibbons • Thursday, January 6 • St. Mary
- Jeanne Kavalowskas • Saturday, January 8 • St. Margaret
- Gary Freitas • Saturday, January 8 • St. Margaret

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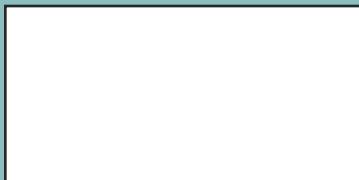
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**Gary L. Belt Jr.,  
A Longtime Resident of  
Chelmsford, MA**

Gary Lee Belt Jr., 51, of N. Chelmsford, MA passed away Friday, November 12, 2021 at Lowell General Hospital.

Born in Lowell, MA he was the son of Gary L. Belt Sr. of N. Chelmsford, MA and Alice (Butler) Rager of Tyngsborough, MA. Gary graduated from Tyngsborough Junior – Senior High School with the class of 1988. After high school Gary graduated from UMass Lowell with a Bachelor’s degree in Physics and later earned his Master’s degree in Mathematics.

During his young lifetime, Gary worked as a Caregiver to his Grandparents, Phyllis and George Belt. His expertise was in computer hardware/software design utilizing the Linux operating system. He designed and built his own computer systems.

He was a communicant of St. John the

Evangelist Church of N. Chelmsford, MA.

Gary was an avid reader who enjoyed investing and watching the stock market. He also had a love for gardening and was always interested in Native American jewelry. Gary enjoyed cooking/baking often using his Grandparent recipes.

Besides his parents, he is survived by his two sisters Cheryl Jacobson of Woodbridge, VA and Jennifer and her husband Jay Bousquet of Lunenburg, MA.

Extended family live in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Missouri.

His visiting hours were Tuesday, November 16, 2021 from 3:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. Funeral was Wednesday, November 17, 2021 at 11:00 A.M. at the DOLAN FUNERAL HOME, 106 MIDDLESEX ST. CHELMSFORD, with a funeral procession to Fairview Cemetery, N. Chelmsford, MA. For the safety of all, we kindly ask you to wear a mask while attending Gary’s services. Online guest book is available at [www.dolanfuneralhome.com](http://www.dolanfuneralhome.com).

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