THE HOLY ROOD COLLABORATIVE

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

September 19, 2021
25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but the One who sent me." -Mark 9:37

Parish Office Location and Hours

115 Middlesex Street • North Chelmsford, MA 01863
(978) 251-8571/ 454-5143/ 256-2374 ● 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

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, September 20

Bible Study • 10 am -12 pm • SM PC Conf Room 1
LIVEVIEW Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3 pm • St. John
Confession • 4:30 - 5:30 pm • St. John
ACTS CORE Meeting • 6:30 - 8:30 pm • SJE NPC Linehan Room
LIVEVIEW Rosary • 7 pm • St. Mary

Tuesday, September 21

LIVEVIEW Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3 pm • St. John
Confession • 4:30 - 5:30 pm • St. Margaret of Scotland
Wine, Women and Word • 6:30 pm • SJE NPC Mariotti Room
FF Parent FAQ Drop-In • 6-8 pm • St. Margaret Sacred Heart Hall
LIVEVIEW Rosary • 7 pm • St. Mary

Wednesday, September 22

LIVEVIEW Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3 pm • St. John
Confession • 4:30 - 5:30 pm • St. Mary
FF Parent FAQ Drop-In • 6-8 pm • SJE NPC Mariotti Room
St. Mary SVdP Meeting • 7 pm • SM PC Conf Room 1
LIVEVIEW Rosary • 7 pm • St. Mary

Thursday, September 23

Charismatic Prayer Group • 10 am • SJE OPC
Rosary Making Group • 10:30 am -12 pm • SM PC Conf Room 2
Adoration • 12 pm - 9 pm • SM PC Adoration Chapel
LIVEVIEW Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3 pm • St. John
FF Parent FAQ Drop-In • 6-8 pm • SM PC Conf Room 1
BINGO • doors open 4:30 pm/ first game 6:45 pm • SJE Hall
LIVEVIEW Rosary • 7 pm • St. Mary

Friday, September 24

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

Saturday, September 25

Catholic Men's Group • 7:45-8:45 am • SM PC Conf Room 1
Grief Support Group • 10 am - 12:30 pm • SJE OPC
Confession • 11 am - 12 noon • St. Mary
Confession • 1- 2 pm • St. Margaret of Scotland
Confession • 3 - 3:45 pm • St. John the Evangelist

ATTENTION
HOLY ROOD MINISTRIES

IF YOU HAVE NOT YET RESERVED YOUR FACILITY SPACE FOR THE SEPTEMBER 2021 - JUNE 2022 YEAR PLEASE BE SURE TO DO SO. With the busy schedules of ALL our ministries, it is important that space is reserved accordingly as **SPACE IS FILLING UP QUICKLY**. Note that space is reserved on a first-come, first- served basis. To make your reservation, please do so online at…

www.theholyrood.org/reserve-a-room

Already reserved? If you make any changes to the room set-up, we kindly ask that you return it to the same set-up as it was when you entered the room. There are many times when rooms have been arranged according to a particular specification for an ongoing, regularly scheduled event.

Note that the ministry who has their time and space officially scheduled will supersede any impromptu and unscheduled meetings in that same time and space. The party who does not hold an official reservation will politely be asked to relocate. So… ALWAYS BEST TO RESERVE!

… to the following ministries
who are making their
in-person comeback this week!!!

- ACTS
- Hope and Healing
  Adult Grief Support Group
- Monday Morning Bible Study Group
- St. John Charismatic Prayer Group
- St. Mary St. Vincent de Paul
- St. Mary Knitting and Crocheting
- Wine, Women and Word

Clergy

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

Reverend Fernando Ayala, Parochial Vicar
frfernando@theholyrood.org

Reverend Arnold Colletti, Sr. Priest in Residence
frcolletti@theholyrood.org / ext 116

Reverend Raymond Benoit, Sr. Priest in Residence
frray@theholyrood.org / ext 115

Reverend Mr. John C. Hunt, Jr., Permanent Deacon
deaconjohn@theholyrood.org / (978) 254-2696

Reverend Mr. Barry V. Lloyd., Permanent Sr. Deacon
deac5@comcast.net

Outreach & Parish Ministry

Sr. Lori Fleming, Pastoral Associate
srlori@theholyrood.org / ext 225

Business Office

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

Tina Sousa, Finance & Facility Support
tsousa@theholyrood.org / ext 219

Family Faith Formation

Heather Hannaway, MA , Dir of Faith Formation
hhannaway@theholyrood.org / ext 226

Courtney Callanan, MA, Asst Dir of Faith Formation
courtney@theholyrood.org / ext 227

Shaun Bradley, Faith Formation Associate
sbradley@theholyrood.org / ext 232

Lynn Anne LaDuke, Faith Formation Coordinator
lynnanne@theholyrood.org / ext 240

Elaine Kindler, Faith Formation Coordinator
ekindler@theholyrood.org / ext 216

Administration

Sue Beechin, Administrative Assistant
sue@theholyrood.org / ext 236

Jamie Brown, part-Time Scheduling Coordinator
jbrown@theholyrood.org / ext 239

Rae Russo, part-time Funeral Coordinator
rae@theholyrood.org / (978) 306-5882

Donna Gambon, part-time Administrative Assistant
dgambon@theholyrood.org / ext 248

Facilities

Dan Heider, Facilities Manager
dheider@theholyrood.org / ext 213

Bulletin, Website, Social Media

Christine Trznadel, Communications Director
christine@theholyrood.org / (978) 254-4406

Turn page for more

Introducing our Visiting Clergy

As anyone who attends Mass here regularly will know, we have a 'staff' of visiting clergy that assist our own clergy staff of Fr. Brian, Fr. Fernando, Fr. Colletti and Fr. Ray in celebrating the 25 weekly Masses that are celebrated across our three churches in the collaborative.

We have decided to formally introduce you to one of them per week over a period of 5 weeks. Enjoy!

Fr. Raju D. Muringayil, O Praem

Raju D. Muringayil, O Praem belongs to the Norbertine Order from India.

Fr. Raju entered the seminary at the age of 15, and was ordained on January 1st of his 26th year.

Fr. Raju enjoys reading, daily exercise, writing Sunday Homilies, and sending them to several people.

Mother Teresa is his favorite saint whom he has met. He used to celebrate Holy Mass at her convent in Bangalore when he was a seminary rector and the Novice Master of the Order.

Fr. Raju typically celebrates our weekday Masses in our collaborative parishes. He is also a priest-chaplain at Lowell General Hospital.

If you haven't already, be sure to say "hi" and introduce yourself!

POSTPONEMENT

The Annual Homebound Luncheon scheduled for this Tuesday, September 21 has been postponed for a future date. When the new date has been set, we will let you know.

annual HOMEBOUND Luncheon

# of what's happening in our collaborative!

Funeral Flocknotes?

Did you know we have a specific distribution list to inform our parishioners of all funerals celebrated IN any of our churches? If you are interested in being notified of these, please follow the following directions.

- Email christine@theholyrood.org.
- Type **FUNERAL FLOCKNOTE** in subject line.
- Include First and Last Name and your Registered Parish within the body of the email.

Please keep in mind that we are permitted to announce ONLY those funerals that are celebrated within the walls of our churches. If a funeral is celebrated in the funeral home, we are not able to notify you of such. Thank you for your understanding.

Mass on a Mountain

October 11, 2021 • 7:30 am

Both the youth and adults of St. Mary, St. John the Evangelist and St. Margaret of Scotland are invited to join us for a hike on the Welch and Dickey Mount Trail in New Hampshire. In addition to a day of exercise and beautiful views, you can expect the celebration of Mass by Fr. Brian at the peak.

Email your RSVP by October 4 to courtney@theholyrood.org

Drivers and Chaperones are needed for this event. Contact Courtney if you can help out!

hope and healing
adult grief support group

When someone close to you dies everything changes in your family, in your life, and your dreams. Often this can turn your life upside down. Know you are not alone in your grief and loneliness.

The Hope and Healing Adult Grief Support Group will resume their monthly meetings, with the first one scheduled for:

NEXT Saturday, September 25
10:30 am - 12:00 noon
St. John Old Parish Center

We will continue to meet on the last Saturday of each month.

All are welcome to a safe place to share your story, find comfort, hope and encouragement, as you continue a new path in life.

Registration is not required.

4TH ANNUAL HAIL MARY CHALLENGE

1,000,000 Hail Mary's in 6 Months • May 1 - October 31

Your Hail Mary counts can be emailed to Paul at psidari@ymail.com, phoned into (978) 729-1677, or put into the black drop boxes located at the entrance of the parish offices or the rear handicap entrance at St. Mary.

Please remember to pray for the Holy Souls in Purgatory!

Our Lady of Fatima revealed in her apparition that only the souls that are "totally pure will see God," and that we who are on this Earth must pray for those in purgatory, as they cannot pray for themselves.

WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 12	TOTAL-TO-DATE	%AGE OF GOAL
43,264	845,702	84.5%

Heather Hannaway, MA
Director of Faith Formation
hhannaway@theholyrood.org

Courtney Callanan, MA
Asst. Director of Faith Formation
courtney@theholyrood.org

Shaun Bradley
Faith Formation Associate
sbradley@theholyrood.org

Elaine Kindler
Faith Formation Coordinator
ekindler@theholyrood.org

Lynn Anne LaDuke
Faith Formation Coordinator
lynnanne@theholyrood.org

Family Faith Formation Program

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

PARENT FAQ 'DROP-INS'

Ok… so you now have your pizza box in-hand and you've watched the video(s), and you still have a question or two. No worries… we have scheduled Frequently Asked Questions sessions, which are not really 'sessions' but rather 'drop-in visits,' for those who have any questions, or would like to discuss any matter related to the upcoming Faith Formation year. You need only attend if you want or need to.

Drop-In anytime between the hours of 6-8 pm…

- Tuesday, September 21st at St. Margaret of Scotland Parish Hall
- Wednesday, September 22nd at St. John NPC Mariotti Room
- Thursday, September 23rd at St. Mary PC Conference Room 1

The evening/location that you attend need NOT be the parish in which your child(ren) are registered. We are offering this diverse schedule in order to help meet your busy schedule.

Registration is not necessary… just

ST. JOHN CONFIRMATION RETREAT AND REHEARSAL

For Candidates and Sponsors
St. John Hall

- Saturday, October 2nd
  4:30 - 9:00 pm
- Wednesday, September 29th
  5:30 - 9:00

ST. JOHN CONFIRMATION CEREMONY

Sunday,
October 3rd
3:00 pm
St. John Church

If you are able to pick up some of these items for our classes we would really appreciate it. Your donations can be left in the designated bins located in the St. John New Parish Center Foyer, St. Mary Parish Hall or at the back of the Church at St. Margaret. Thank you so much for any and all donations!

- 24-count crayons
- black/blue/red/green dry erase markers
- colored pencils (do not need regular pencils)
- retractable ball point pens
- zip-lock-style snack/quart/gallon bags
- band-aids
- **washable** primary-color broad-line and thin-line markers
- small glue sticks
- child-safe scissors
- scotch tape
- 12 oz bottles of hand sanitizer
- sanitary wipes
- boxes of tissues
- rolls of paper towels

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.

ST. MARY WEEKLY OFFERTORY	Weekend of September 11/12	Fiscal Year-To-Date September 12	Fiscal YTD Average/Week
Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses	$15,000	$165,000	$15,000
Actual Received	$12,129	$155,510	$14,137
Shortfall/ Overage	-$2,871	-$9,490	-$863

ST. JOHN WEEKLY OFFERTORY	Weekend of September 11/12	Fiscal Year-To-Date September 12	Fiscal YTD Average/Week
Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses	$9,500	$104,500	$9,500
Actual Received	$8,168	$103,470	$9,406
Shortfall/ Overage	-$1,332	-$1,030	-$94

ST. MARGARET WEEKLY OFFERTORY	Weekend of September 11/12	Fiscal Year-To-Date September 12	Fiscal YTD Average/Week
Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses	$5,550	$61,050	$5,550
Actual Received	$3,938	$48,445	$4,404
Shortfall/ Overage	-$1,612	-$12,605	-$1,146

St. John the Evangelist WeShare ON LINE GIVING

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.

You will be taken to the St. John WeShare site. Click on 'Set up New Account' and set up your payment options. If you prefer, there is a "Quick Give" option to make a one-time donation.

St. Mary Parish Online Giving

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.

You will be taken to the St. Mary Online Living site. Choose your Giving Opportunity and set up your payments options. If you prefer, there is an option to make a one-time donation.

VANCO St. Margaret of Scotland Parish Intentional Giving

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.

You will be taken to the St. Margaret online giving site. If you are a new donor, click on the 'create profile' button to create your donor account.

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.

Happy First Day of autumn

September 22, 2021

O God of Creation, you have blessed us with the changing of the seasons.
As we welcome the autumn months, may the earlier setting of the sun remind us to take time to rest.
May the brilliant colors of the leaves remind us of the wonder of your creation.
May the steam of our breath in the cool air remind us that it is you who give us the breath of life.
May the harvest from the fields
remind us of the abundance we have been given and bounty we are to share with others.
May the dying of summer's spirit remind us of your great promise that death is temporary and life is eternal.
We praise you for your goodness forever and ever. -amen

Welcome Back Ladies of The Holy Rood Collaborative and beyond!

Join us
THIS Tuesday,
September 21st
6:30 - 8:00 pm
St. John NPC Mariotti Room

Sunday, December 19th at 2:30 pm
Lowell Memorial Auditorium

Join the Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra and Conductor Keith Lockhart for their sparkling and beloved Holiday Pops concert. Capturing the magic of the Christmas season and the winter charms of New England, the Boston Pops will perform their signature Sleigh Ride, as well as other Holiday classics, and new arrangements of seasonal favorites. Santa Claus himself will make a guest appearance during the concert's finale followed by the traditional Boston Pops Holiday Sing-a-long to bring this special performance to a close.

There are 40 seats available at $72 per ticket and are available via first-come, first-served. To get yours, contact Lynn at (978) 590-7863!

Seats: Parquet D, Rows A-D

Charity Tootsie Roll Drive

Members of the Knights of Columbus will be outside collecting donations following all Masses at all churches on the weekend of October 9th/10th. This annual Tootsie Roll Drive raises funds for special needs children in our community, for purchases such as wheel chairs, ramps and computer speech boards, that will improve their lives.

We greatly appreciate your support of this worthy cause. If you would like more information about this fund or the Knights of Columbus, please see one of the members after Mass, or visit www.kofc9275.org

Immaculate Conception Church in Lowell is collecting religious articles through October 4th

Many of us have statues, broken rosaries, etc. that are tucked away in a drawer. This is your chance to recycle these items in a respectable manner. **Please drop them off to the Parish Rectory at 3 Fayette Street, Lowell.**

Please visit www.iclowell.org/ for more details.

FIRST SATURDAY MARIAN DEVOTIONS

You are invited to attend
First Saturday [of each month] Marian Devotions with The Rosary and other prayers to honor Our Lady of Fatima.

Holy Trinity Church
340 High Street, Lowell
1:00 - 2:30 pm

Next Date: Saturday, October 2

In June of 1995, I was in my first parish assignment at Saint John the Evangelist in Wellesley. I had been ordained about a month. At that time, Mother Teresa came to Our Lady Help of Christians in Newton, which was practically next door to where I was assigned. I took the opportunity to attend the church when she came to speak. It was an interesting experience. I was standing in the sanctuary of the church when Mother Teresa entered the building through the front doors. At that point, everyone was standing, and with Mother Teresa being only five feet tall, she could not be seen from the sanctuary. The thing I remember so distinctly was that I knew exactly when she entered the church. Her presence filled the building with an abiding sense of holiness. I am sure many of us have met a person of holiness whose very presence speaks to us of the presence of God.

As we often encounter holiness in others, we are also called to recognize the holiness of the Church. The Church in her nature is holy, but the holiness comes about first and foremost from the actions of God. It is about how God chooses to use the Church as an instrument of expressing His holiness. The holiness of the Church then, rightfully understood, is not about the Church, but about God who alone is truly holy. God, in and through the Holy Spirit, works through the Church to create a community of faithful people who have been redeemed through Christ. It is this very process that is an outward sign of the holiness of the Church. The action of the Spirit to heal, purify and redeem the people of God is a real expression of God's holiness at work through His appointed community. The power of forgiveness that God expresses through the Church is ultimately an expression of what the holiness of the Church is about. It is this community of sinners, striving to be saints through the mercy and grace offered by God, that become the outward revelation of God's intentions for all of humanity. God calls each and every person to a life of holiness through the redemption wrought by Christ. No individual can claim holiness on their own or apart from Christ. True holiness for a human being is not possible apart from Christ. The Church then, becomes the instrument to both reveal the true nature of holiness and the means to encounter and live a life of holiness. She seeks constantly to lead people to a life of conversion through baptism and penance in order to open them to God's mercy and healing forgiveness.

Therefore, the holiness of the Church is not a statement about the holiness of the people who are in the Church. It is not a statement about those who are called to lead the Church. It is a statement about the life that all in the Church are called to strive to live. The truth is that the Church is a Church of sinners. The holiness of the Church is not about the people within, but again, about the actions of God. The Church in herself is indefectibly holy through Her relationship with God, but imperfectly holy based on the people who make up the Church.

Hence, the holiness of the Church is a sign of the work and power of the Holy Spirit leading, guiding and shepherding Her. She is always seeking to bring about reform and renewal of life for all people, but most particularly those in the Church. This reform and renewal are based upon forgiveness; it is an action of the Spirit working in and through the Church. To guarantee that this renewal and reform happen appropriately, the Holy Spirit ensures that the Church, when it comes to faith and morals, will never teach in error. However, this does not mean that individuals and leaders will not act contrary to the will of the Spirit, but rather the Church as a whole will remain pure and always living out the mission of Christ. The Church was created by Christ, and Christ remains the head of the Church. It is the Church's connection to Christ empowered by the Holy Spirit that guarantees that the Church always 100% reflects the holiness of God.

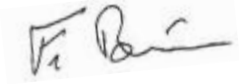
As the Church seeks to continue this mission of Christ through Her expression of Christ's holiness to the world through the power of healing and forgiveness, She also connects to the world through being catholic. The word catholic here is used as an adjective rather than noun. The word catholic means universal. When we say the Church is catholic, we are describing how the Church in a sense connects with the world as a whole and the Church is structured.

As we unpack the meaning of the universality of the Church, it begins with a simple truth that the message of salvation is not intended for any one time, place, or people. Rather, the Church is intended to bring the message to all people. Furthermore, there is no one particular people, culture, language, or historical time that expresses the fullness of the message of salvation. Instead, the Church will take from all people and cultures what is proper to Christ. Every people have something to contribute to continuing the mission of Christ. Every culture has its own way of expressing the truth and how our experiences with God can be expressed. It is this very diversity of experience and expression that speak of the Church's universality. Catholicity is not discovered in uniformity of thought and articulation, but instead in the grounding and foundation of unalterable truth. Truth is objective and unchangeable, but how that truth is expressed needs to be impacted by how people can truly hear it.

We will continue this next week on the purpose of catholicity.

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

Please keep me in your prayers.



From our Pastoral Associate

Sr. Lori Fleming SNDdeN

Make Time to "Care for our Common Home".

Anniversary celebrations give us the opportunity to remember important events. They motivate us to find ways to continue the momentum that spirited the event we are observing. Five years ago, in May of 2020, some celebratory actions planned for the fifth anniversary of *Laudato Si* were clouded by the Covid-19 Pandemic. We missed opportunities to celebrate this encyclical considered to be the compendium of Catholic teaching on creation and the environment. Now we are being invited to become involved in action plans to integrate these teachings into our life through our "care for our Common Home." Our invitation - the *Laudato Si* Action Platform.

The *Laudato Si* Action Platform is a unique collaboration between the Vatican, an international coalition of Catholic organizations, and "all men and women of good will." (LS 3) Taking a truly ground-up approach, it is rooted in the strengths and realities of communities around the world, empowering all to take "decisive action, here and now" as we journey towards a better future together. (LS 161)

On October 4, the Feast of St. Francis, the *Laudato Si* Action Platform will be launched in stages throughout 2021–2022. At completion, "the platform will comprise three elements: *Laudato Si* Plans to map your journey, practical guidance on ways to take action, and resources to develop trusted communities of practice." This platform empowers the universal Church and all people of good will to respond to *Laudato Si.* Exploring the ancient teachings of our faith in the light of today's ecological crisis, *Laudato Si* teaches us that "everything is connected." (LS 91) As our relationship with our divine Creator has been neglected, human relationships have faltered, and our world has grown hotter, less stable, and more lifeless. As a result, we all suffer, and the poorest and most vulnerable suffer above all. We face a "complex crisis that is both social and environmental." (LS 139) There is hope. Pope Francis calls us to develop a "loving awareness" of this home we share and to act on the values we hold dear. (LS 220)

Standing on the firm ground of "three fundamental and closely intertwined relationships: with God, with our neighbor, and with the Earth itself," we commit to setting out "on the long path of renewal." (LS 66, 202) We embrace our rightful place in the "order and dynamism" that our Creator ordained, and we urgently embark on new ways of living with "creativity and enthusiasm." (LS 221, 220)

Action is urgently needed. Our Creator called the human family to be the steward of creation, but we have neglected that call. Through the *Laudato Si* Action Platform, we are walking the "path to renewal" together. (LS 202)

From our Parochial Vicor

Fr. Fernando

Dear brothers and dear sisters,

Throughout these past two weeks, we have been hearing our Lord unveiling the pharisees as hypocrites. We have heard him say: "Woe to you hypocrites." More recently, on the Twenty-Third Friday of Ordinary Time, He said: "*Can a blind person guide a blind person? Will not both fall into a pit?... How can you say to a brother, 'Brother, let me remove that splinter from your eye,' when you do not notice the wooden beam in your own eye? You hypocrite!"*

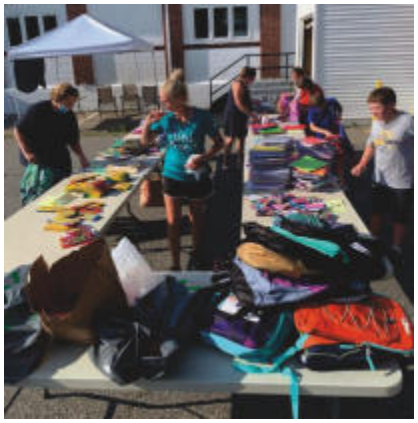
- Why is our Lord saying this?
- Does this mean I cannot correct anyone for fear of becoming a hypocrite?

No dear brothers and sisters. You see, we owe truth to each other, and as St. Paul says, we owe it with charity. This means it is an act of love to offer fraternal correction. However, we may wonder how to do this when we may also struggle with the same sin, same fault, same blindness or splinter in our eye. How do I correct a sinner while I am a sinner and not become a hypocrite? We do it with humility. Yes, we may also be blind. Yes, we may also have the same splinter or wooden beam in our eye. But we can still correct our brother or sister if we recognize and accept our own blindness. Instead of saying to our blind brother "Hey let me lead you" while we are both blind, we should instead say, "Hey brother, let us both walk together. Let me remove your splinter and help me remove mine. Let us help each other through darkness." This, my dear brothers and sisters, is true fraternal correction. This is true love.

We do not correct like the pharisees did. We recognize we are sinners in need of correction ourselves. They corrected others from a place of righteousness; we correct from a place of weaknesses and sinfulness for there is only one who is righteous. We attend Mass and received the sacraments, not because we are saints or righteous, but because we are sinners in need of grace.

Let us turn the devil's weapon against himself. Let us use the humiliation of sin to grow in humility of grace. Let us all help each other through our blindness and walk together toward holiness.

BACK PACK ATTACK FINAL STATISTICS



Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! for your great and overwhelming generosity! Your support of our kids in need is so very evident from the 'filled-to-the-brim' drop boxes! Your generosity assisted the Lowell Wish Project to distribute just over 3,000 backpacks in total.

Our collaborative alone collected 7,575 pieces and stuffed 273 backpacks!

One Crayon, One Folder, One Glue Stick at a time

Adoration is not as scary (or boring) as you may think.

It's actually a peaceful time where one can create an exciting new relationship!

Whether we are aware of it or not, our souls long for their creator. We have a thirst that can only be truly quenched by our God. We have a longing and a desire for peace that can only be obtained through Him who IS peace. If you find yourself in a places that is running low on peace and hope, we invite you to begin anew—or begin again—a journey to the Spirit who dwells within you!

- St. John the Evangelist: First Fridays, 3 - 9 pm in the Old Parish Center Adoration Chapel
- St. Mary: Every Thursday from 12 - 9 pm in the Parish Center Adoration Chapel

For those of you who are new to this practice, you may find it difficult at first to be surrounded by the sound of silence. We are so used to the incessant noise that fills our daily lives. But hang in there… you will soon find that this quiet is exactly what you need to carry with you into the world, to rely on and to share. We promise… in time you will come to love your time with the Lord!

Spend a WHOLE hour in silent prayer with the Lord?

HOW DO I DO THAT?

Try breaking the hour up into twelve five-minute prayer sessions...

Start your hour by **PRAISING** Him for things that are on your mind right now. Praise Him for one special thing He has done in your life this past week. Praise Him for His goodness to your family. (Psalm 34:1)

Next, **WAIT** on the Lord. Let Him pull together reflections for you. Think about the hour before you and the things you want the Lord to do in your life. (Psalm 27:14)

Ask the Holy Spirit to show you anything in your life which might be displeasing to Him. Ask Him to point out attitudes that are wrong, as well as specific acts for which you have not yet made a prayer of confession. Now **CONFESS** that to the Lord and claim 1 John 1:9… if we acknowledge our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from every wrongdoing—so that you might be cleansed for the remainder of the hour before you, and then pick up and read the Word. (Psalm 51:1-19)

Spend time **READING THE BIBLE** promises of God in the Psalms, in the prophets, and passages on prayer located in the New Testament.

Next, offer **PETITIONS**… the general request for others, praying through the prayer list, the prayer cards, or personal prayer interest on behalf of yourself and others. (Hebrews 4:16)

Then **INTERCEDE** on the behalf of others. Pray specifically for those requests of which you are aware. (Romans 15:30-33)

Start **PRAYING THE SCRIPTURES**.
Certain sections of Psalm 119 (38-46) lend themselves beautifully to prayer expression.

Spend the next 5 minutes **GIVING THANKS** to the Lord for things in your life, things on behalf of the church, things on behalf of your family. (Philippians 4:6)

Take your hymnal or revert to memory and **SING** a prayer song, sing a praise song, sing a song regarding soul winning or witnessing. Let it be a time of praise. (Psalm 59:17)

MEDITATE. Ask the Lord to speak back to you and keep a paper and pen handy, ready to relate the impressions that He makes upon your life. (Psalm 63)

Spend time merging the things you have read from the Word, the things you have prayed, the things you have thanked the Lord for, the things that you have been singing, and see how the Lord brings them all together to speak to you (I Samuel 3: 9-10) as you **LISTEN**.

PRAISE THE LORD for the time you have just spent with Him. Praise Him for the impressions that He has given you. Praise Him for the prayer requests He raised up in your mind. (Psalm 145:1-13)

Some have been asking how we came up with The Holy Rood as the name of our collaborative, so we decided the best way to respond would be to re-publish the initial article as it appeared in the June 20th Chelmsford Catholic Collaborative bulletin, the June 27th St. Margaret of Scotland bulletin and the June 10th FLOCKNOTE announcement. And as always, this and much, much more can be found on our website. Please feel free to visit us at www.theholyrood.org/new-collaborative-initiative

As many of you may know, St. Mary, St. John the Evangelist and St. Margaret of Scotland are joining together to form a single, three-parish collaborative. Cardinal Seán has approved the forming of this new collaborative effective July 1! At this time, please allow us to introduce our new name…

The Holy Rood Collaborative

The Holy Rood refers to any image of Mary, the mother of Jesus, and John, the favorite disciple, standing together at the foot of The Cross. Okay, but...

how does St. Margaret fit into this?

It is said that when 21-year-old Margaret had to flee to Scotland following the conquest of England in 1066, she brought her most valuable treasure with her... A true relic of the specific wooden cross upon which Christ was crucified and died. In 1070, her husband, Malcom III, founded the Abbey of Dunfermline, where she kept this relic enshrined in an ebony colored crucifix—this is how the term Black Rood came into being, to which it is often referred. In 1093, as she lay dying, it was this relic to which she clung.

Her great love and devotion of this relic inspired her son, King David I, the youngest of St. Margaret's children, to erect the Holy Rood Abbey in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1128. It was here that the relic continued to be safeguarded until it was regained by the English in 1346.

www.theholyrood.org

Our new website will be in effect anywhere between June 29th and July 2nd, provided the tech world cooperates with us. The reason for this range in days is because from the time when the 'go live' order is placed, it can take as few as a couple hours and up to a couple days for the site to re-populate under its new name. So, thank you in advance, for your patience.

We look forward to our journeying together as a new collaborative family towards the One True Cross!

Archdiocesan and community News

iTHIRST

"my souls thirsts for God, the living God." -Psalm 41:1

September is National Recovery Month

Recovery is for Everyone:
Every Person, Every Family, Every Community

This theme reminds us that people in recovery and those who support them that no one is along in their journey through recovery. Everyone's journey is different and we are all in this together.

This journey of recovery is a time where the church meets human beings who are suffering from the spiritual disease of addition/ attachment. It takes the place of God. As they try and find the unconditional love that God has for them in all the wrong places, the Church wishes to step in and walk with them to give them hope.

"Then let us celebrate with a feast,
because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost, and has been found.'
-Luke 15: 23-24

Archdiocesan Addiction Recovery
Pastoral Support Services
A ministry of the Archdiocese of Boston

The Cardinal's addiction task force, "Archdiocesan Addiction Recovery Pastoral Support Services (AARPSS) Office of Chaplaincy Programs" has joined with the Missionary Servants of the Most Holy Trinity to bring the "iThirst" Healing Initiative to our communities. The three pronged initial deals with Recovery, Spirituality and the Twelve Steps. Currently there are 20 plus "iThirst" companions in the Archdiocese journeying with those in recovery from attachments.

If you or someone you know is struggling with addiction, please visit www.aarpss.org to see all the resources available to you.

Let us pray, especially this month, for the success of this program, and the recovery of all who struggle with addiction.

Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass

Sunday, November 7
2 pm at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross

All couples celebrating their 10th, 25th or 50th wedding anniversaries in 2020-21 are invited to join Cardinal Seán for a Mass to be celebrated in their honor. The Mass includes a vow renewal and special blessing by the Cardinal.

Couples can register or get their questions answered via a link found on our website at www.theholyrood.org/anniversary-mass-at-the-cathedral.

Project Rachel

The Project Rachel ministry of the Archdiocese of Boston extends a special invitation to women suffering from the pain of a past abortion to attend a one– day retreat.

Come to the Waters of Healing

9:00 am - 5:00 pm

September 25, October 16 or November 20

Location of the retreat is confidential and there is a limit of 10 participants per retreat so reserve your spot today by calling (508) 651-3100 or email help@projectrachel.com.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE
THE BEGINNING OF THE END OF ABORTION

Wednesday, September 22 - Sunday, October 31
All events are on the sidewalk at 1055 Commonwealth Ave, Boston

Campaign kick-off: September 22 at 2 pm
Praise and Worship Vigils: Thursdays at 6 pm
- September 23, 30; October 7, 14, 21, 28

Candlelight Vigils: Fridays at 7 pm
- September 24; October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Spanish Vigils: Saturdays at 10:30 am
- September 25; October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Family Vigils: Sundays at 2 pm
- September 26; October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

Rosary: Tuesdays at 2 pm
- September 28; October 5, 12, 19, 26

Concluding Prayer Service: Sunday, October 31 at 2 pm

Check out www.40daysforlife.com/boston

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 the Evangelist

Sat, Sep 18	4:00 pm:	People of the Parish
Sun, Sep 19	9:30 am:	Mary Jane Dunn: Memorial
	6:00 pm:	Carol, Amy and Justin MacNeil: Memorial
Mon, Sep 20	9:00 am:	Dorothy Elaine Pressley: Memorial
Tue, Sep 21	9:00 am:	Rita Lefebvre: Memorial
Wed, Sep 22	9:00 am:	Msgr Lido Ferretti: Memorial
Thu, Sep 23	9:00 am:	Michael David: Memorial
Fri, Sep 24	9:00 am:	For those whose Funerals were celebrated at St. John's this past month
Sat, Sep 25	4:00 pm:	John Patrick Curran: 3rd Anniversary
Sun, Sep 26	9:30 am	The Gamache Family: Memorial
	6:00 pm:	People of the Parish

St. Margaret of Scotland

Sat, Sep 18	4:00 pm:	Lucille Denomme: 10th Anniversary
Sun, Sep 19	7:30 am:	Michael & Florence Carolan, Margaret Speiran, James Coralan: Memorial
	10:00 am:	Ernest A. & Anne Marie Laforge: Memorial
Wed, Sep 22	8:00 am:	Daniel F. Sullivan: Memorial
Thu, Sep 23	8:00 am:	Barbara E. Gross: 25th Anniversary
Fri, Sep 24	8:00 am:	For those whose Funerals were celebrated at St. Margaret's this past month
Sat, Sep 25	4:00 pm:	Stephen J. Gilbride: 16th Anniversary
Sun, Sep 26	7:30 am:	People of the Parish
	10:00 am:	Richard Lawrenson: 37th Anniversary

St. Mary Parish

Sat, Sep 18	4:00 pm:	People of the Parish
Sun, Sep 19	7:00 am:	Raymond and Louise Fuller: Memorial
	11:00 am:	David Hickey: 6th Anniversary
Tue, Sep 21	7:00 am:	Isabella Patterson Flanders: Memorial
Fri, Sep 24	7:00 am:	For those whose Funerals were celebrated at St. Mary's this past month
Sat, Sep 25	4:00 pm:	Francis Armstrong: 25th Anniversary
Sun, Sep 26	7:00 am:	Margaret W. Cole: 4th Anniversary
	11:00 am:	People of the Parish

Funerals Recently Celebrated

Alice Martin • Monday, September 13 • St. Mary
Francis McKenney • Monday, September 13 • St. Margaret
Joanne Knight • Tuesday, September 14 • St. Mary
Carol Ann Keenan • Thursday, September 17 • St. Mary

For details on all avenues available to remember a loved one, please visit

www.theholyrood.org/remember-a-loved-one

Rose for Life

Is there 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.

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.

This week's St. Mary Altar Flowers
In Memory of Joe and Agnes Corbin

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.

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.

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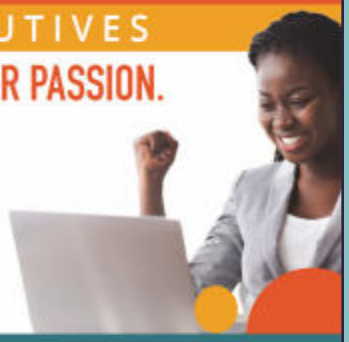

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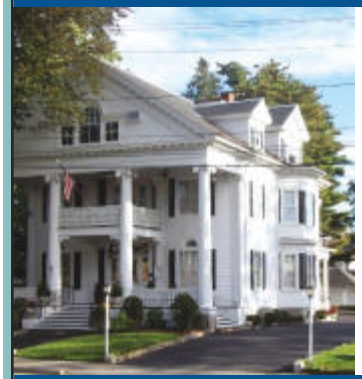

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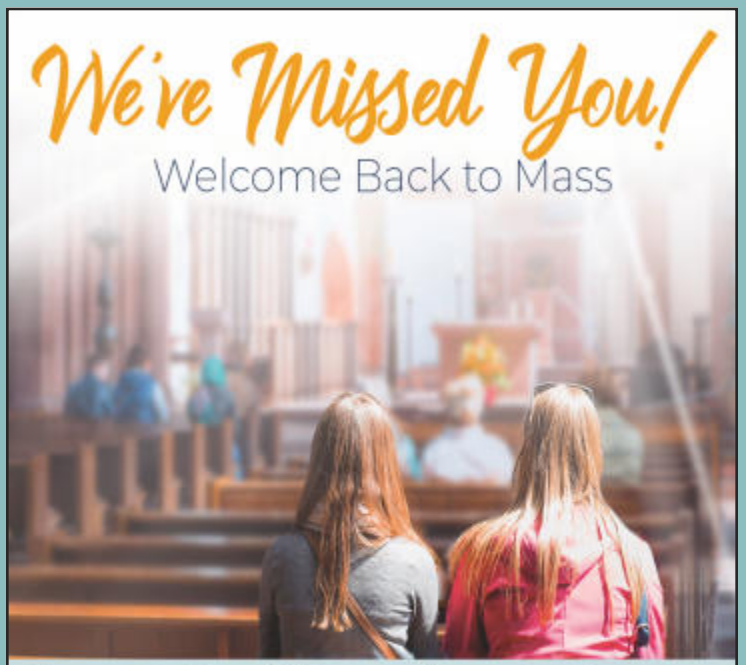

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