

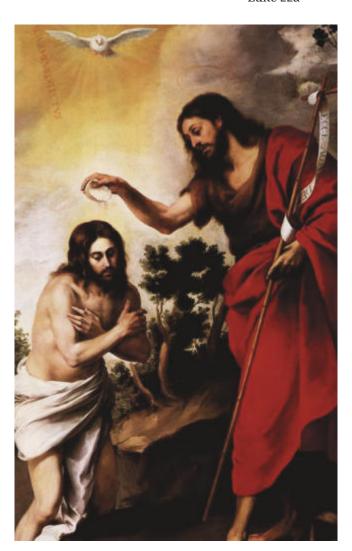
ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST PARISH 115 MIDDLESEX STREET NORTH CHELMSFORD ST. MARGARET
OF SCOTLAND PARISH
374 STEVENS STREET
LOWELL

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. $$_{\mbox{-Luke}\,\mbox{\tiny 22a}}$$





Parish Office Location and Hours

115 Middlesex Street • North Chelmsford, 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

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

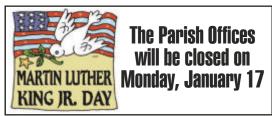
Knitting and Crocheting • 2 - 5 pm • SM Parish Hall LIVEVIEW Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3 pm • St. John LIVEVIEW Rosary • 7 pm • St. Mary

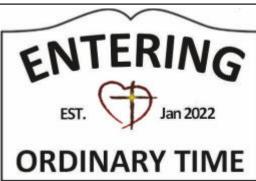
Saturday, January 15

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





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

Sr. Lori Fleming, SNDdeN, 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



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



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 or phone him at

(978) 551-2944.



ofwhat'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. 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 JesuslsHereBoston.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.

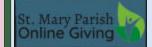
CHRISTMAS COLLECTION	St. Mary	St. John	St. Margaret
Clergy Retirement Benefit Trust	\$13,812	\$9,770	\$6,826
ST. MARY WEEKLY OFFERTORY	December 26th	Fiscal Year-To-Date December 26	Fiscal YTD Average/Week
Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses	\$15,000	\$390,000	\$15,000
Actual Received	\$14,235	\$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	\$ <i>5</i> ,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.

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

Family Faith Formation Program

Elaine Kindler Faith Formation Coordinator ekindler@theholyrood.org

Lynn Anne LaDuke Faith Formation Coordinator lynnanne@theholyrood.org

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



CLASS SCHEDULE

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

JANUARY DEEP DIVES

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

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

PREPARE

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?



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@theholyrood.org.

Please keep me in your prayers.

FRE



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



DOLAN FUNERAL HOME

James F. Dolan

James F. Dolan II

106 Middlesex Street North Chelmsford

978-251-4041 • www.dolanfuneralhome.com

Pre-Planned Funeral Counseling

Fuel Oil • Wood Pellets Heating Equipment Installation

COX FUEL COMPANY
316 Plain St. 978-454-7887

Family Owned & Operated Since 1927

www.coxfuel.com

FREE AD DESIGN

WITH PURCHASE OF THIS SPACE



AVAILABLE FOR A LIMITED TIME!

ADVERTISE HERE NOW!

Contact Bill Ames to place an ad today! bames@4LPi.com or (800) 477-4574 x6424



MAHONEY OIL COMPANY, INC.

120 Plain St., Lowell, MA 01851 978.453.1581

www.mahoneyoilco.com

Home Heating Oil • Automatic Delivery • Cash Discounts 24 Hour Service • Free Estimates • Installations Tank Removals • Annual Cleanings • Flexible Budget Payments



~ Since 1978 ~

(978) 459-4954 312 Plain Street Lowell, MA

www.WalkersGymnasticsDance.com

Driveways • Sidewalks • Parking Lots BOB MULDOON PAVING SERVICE

121-23 Concord Street, Lowell, MA (978) 458-4933 • (978) 423-8261 cell

OVER 35 YEARS EXPERIENCE

Free Estimates - References Available New - Stamped Pavement

Excavating • Drainage • Retaining Walls www.bobmuldoonpavingservice.com



"Multi-Million Dollar Club"

978-551-2944 | EdOliveri@aol.com Servicing the Merrimack Valley

& surrounding area. MA & NH licensed



ESSIER ELECTRIC

FOR ALL YOUR ELECTRICAL NEEDS

Residential and Commercial

No Job Too Big or Too Small

978-815-8999



THIS SPACE IS AVAILABLE

David Murphy

Plumbing • Heating Gas Fitting • Inc.



EST. 1983 **978-458-0481**

MA LIC 9723 • NH LIC 2154



Enterprisebanking.com



McDonough Funeral Home

14 Highland Street - Lowell, MA

www.McDonoughFuneralHome.com

Family Owned & Operated - 5 Generations **978-458-6816**



ROARK LAW OFFICE P.C

Concentrating in Estate & Trust Planning, Elder Law and Medicaid Planning 36 Years Experience 229 Billerica Rd., Chelmsford, MA

> (978) 256-4167 www.aroarklaw.com

ST. JOSEPH CEMETERY

96 Riverneck Rd. • E. Chelmsford, MA

(978) 458-4851





"Discover the Difference"

276 Pawtucket Street · Lowell, MA 01854

James F. O'Donnell, Jr. Funeral Director

A Tradition of Caring Celebrating Over <u>135 Years</u> of Your Trust Free Pre-planning

978-458-8768 • www.ODonnellFuneralHome.com

WE'RE HIRING

AD SALES EXECUTIVES

BE YOURSELF. BRING YOUR PASSION.
WORK WITH PURPOSE.

- Paid Training
- Some Travel
- Work-Life Balance
- Full-Time with Benefits
- Serve Your Community



Contact us at careers@4lpi.com www.4lpi.com/careers

MORSE-BAYLISS Funeral Home

Helping Families Honor & Celebrate the Life of Their Loved Ones



Preplanning & Trusts
Funeral Director
Frederick W. Healy

978-458-6841

122 Princeton Blvd., Lowell morsebayliss@comcast.net

www.morsebaylissfuneralhome.com

LUZ GRANITE CORP

Monuments, Markers, Cemetery Lettering

1208 Gorham St., Lowell, MA 978-459-9799 Adrian Luz, Jr. • Artistry in Granite



Stay connected to our faith community no matter where you are by signing up to get our bulletin delivered straight to your email!

www.ParishesOnline.com

