



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 30, 2022

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

...they were amazed at the gracious words that came from His mouth.
-Luke 4: 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 31

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

Tuesday, February 1

LIVEVIEW Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3 pm • St. John
Confession • 4:30 - 5:30 pm • St. Margaret of Scotland
St. Margaret Choir Rehearsal • 7 - 9 pm • SMS Church Choir Loft
LIVEVIEW Rosary • 7 pm • St. Mary

Wednesday, February 2

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
God, Pizza and Beer • 7 pm • SJE OPC
LIVEVIEW Rosary • 7 pm • St. Mary

Thursday, February 3

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, February 4

Knitting and Crocheting • 2 - 5 pm • SM Parish Hall
LIVEVIEW Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3 pm • St. John
First Friday Adoration • 3 - 9 pm • SJE OPC Adoration Chapel
LIVEVIEW Rosary • 7 pm • St. Mary

Saturday, February 5

Saturday Men's Group • 7 - 8:45 am • SJE Linehan
SMS Prayer Shawl Ministry • 9 am - 12 pm • SMS Sacred Heart Hall
FF First Reconciliations • 9 - 10:30 am • St. Mary Church
FF First Reconciliations • 1 - 2:30 pm • St. John Church
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

Hand Bell Choir Rehearsal • 2 - 3:30 pm • St. Mary Choir Loft

COVID + Reporting Protocols



We would like to say thank you to those who have informed us of their positive testing. It has helped us keep all our families informed and take any needed precautions. Please refer to the following Reporting Protocols:

If you test positive for COVID within 7 days of being in any of our buildings, please contact us at any of the following phone numbers. They will all connect you with our parish office:

(978) 251-8571
(978) 454-5143
(978) 256-2374

Please let us know the following:

- Date, Time and Location of Mass or event you attended
- Date you became symptomatic
- Date you tested positive
- In the case of Mass: Where were you seated?
- If you knew the people around you, have they been informed?
- Were you wearing a mask?

Additionally, the sooner we know of a positive result, the better opportunity we have to disinfect and mitigate the risk of spread.

These protocols can also be found on our website. www.theholyrood.org/covid19-updates

Thank you again for working with us as we all traverse this COVID-19 world together! God Bless!

Support Local Business



SHOP OUR BULLETIN
ADVERTISERS TODAY

Clergy

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

Reverend Fernando Ayala, PAROCHIAL VICAR
frfernando@theholyrood.org | (978) 401-9844

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 | (978) 454-6505

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

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

Collaborative Parish Council

Parish Council matters can be sent to:
collaborativeppe@theholyrood.org

Scott Davidson (SJE) - Chair

Rob Donnelly (SM)	Lorraine Freitas (SMS)
Hilde Gilman (SMS)	Chad Groenwoltd (SMS)
Beth Jacavano (SJE)	Drew Jubinville (SJE)
Cathy Latina (SM)	Lori McDonald (SM)
Ellen St. George (SJE)	Paul Sneeringer (SMS)
Steve McMillan (SM)	

St. John Finance Council

Finance matters concerning St. John can be sent to:
SJ.FC@theholyrood.org

Jeff Brown - Chair

John Bagni	Paul Brzezinski
Celeste Dunn	Grace Ann Steed

St. Margaret Finance Council

Finance matters concerning St. Margaret can be sent to:
SMS.FC@theholyrood.org

Robert Gilman - Chair

Thomas Kirwin	Marc Trudel
---------------	-------------

St. Mary Finance Council

Finance matters concerning St. Mary can be sent to:
SM.FC@theholyrood.org

Lauren Desforge - Chair

Armand DiLando	Ted Powers
Paul Therrien	Paul Rigazio

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

here's what's happening in The Holy



You may have noticed new signage at St. Margaret of Scotland Church. And you will soon see new, matching signage at both St. John the Evangelist and St. Mary as well, thanks

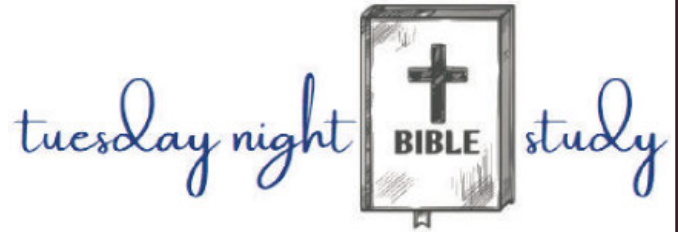
to a generous donation made by St. Margaret Parishioner Mary Scanlon. This donation was made in loving memory and in honor of her late husband, James D. Scanlon, who, in March of 2019, "went to the House of the Lord," as beautifully stated in one of many condolences.

Mary approached Fr. Brian last July about her desire to fund the design and installation of new signs to be placed at all three of our parishes, giving a tangible sign of our unification as the newly-formed Holy Rood Collaborative. Her desire to bring our families together speaks loudly of the life that she and James shared, as well as her deep and abiding love for him.



James experienced many successes in his lifetime... receiving a number of honors while serving in the US Army at Pleiku during the Vietnam war; earning a Masters in Taxation 14 years after graduating with his BS in Accounting from Bentley; and enjoying a long career in his well-loved field of accounting as a CPA. But many would say that his biggest success was his family; Mary and Jim raised three daughters: Karen, (who was baptized at St. Margaret of Scotland), Laura and Susan (both baptized at St. John the Evangelist), whom they raised in the faith that they daily lived. As their family grew through marriages and grandchildren, so did Jim's heart.

You will also hear many say that it was Jim's deep devotion to, and great love of, his Catholic faith that gave his life direction and purpose. He exemplified the Christian virtues of kindness, compassion, generosity, and love to all he met. His influence of faithful and charitable living can be seen in the lives of those he left behind.



Ephesians: Discover your Inheritance

- Tuesday Evenings: 7 - 8:45 pm for 8 weeks
- February 22/ March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29/ April 5, 12
- St. Mary PC Conference Room 1 or via ZOOM
- **Register by February 19th**

Course Materials are to be ordered directly through Ascension Press. If you want to receive in time for the start of this study, we suggest ordering your materials **NO LATER THAN February 14th.**

REGISTRATION
information

To review, register and order materials for this study, visit our website at

www.theholyrood.org/bible-study

The advantages and appeal of a Catholic School education has never been more prevalent than now. With the uncertainty of how public schools will be structured next year, families need reassurance that a quality education is accessible. The Academy of Notre Dame in Tyngsboro offers full day, co-educational, in-person learning for Pre-Kindergarten three-year-olds through grade 12 with an emphasis on rigorous academics. NDA provides a foundation of education that encourages young minds to think critically, embrace their faith, and take on academic challenges.

Our faculty and staff are taking every precaution and safety measure to keep our students healthy. Enforced social distancing, mask usage, and strict cleaning protocols ensure that we continue full time, in-person learning. We encourage you to visit our website and to schedule a tour with our Director of Admissions, Mrs. Charlotte Kelly. Tours are offered each weekday between 8 am and 2 pm and are by appointment only. To schedule a tour, please call the Admissions Office at (978) 649-7611, ext 351.



Road Collaborative community

Join us in congratulating Fr. Colletti as he celebrates his



60th anniversary
of
ordination to the priesthood

This coming Wednesday, February 2nd, Fr. Colletti will celebrate this milestone anniversary. Unfortunately, due to restrictions that the continuing pandemic places upon us, we will be unable to gather in-person until the Spring. Until then, please feel free to shower him with cards and well-wishes.



Fr. Arnold Colletti
St. Mary Rectory
25 North Road . Chelmsford, MA 01824

LAST CALL

To reserve your spot for the upcoming Holy Land Pilgrimage!

Join Deacon John, Bishop Hennessey and Fr. Corey on a ...

Deluxe Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

April 3 - 13, 2022 • \$5,299 pp/double occupancy



- First Class Hotel Accommodation
- Visit to a Market in Nazareth

- Wine Tasting: The American Colony Hotel courtyard
- Visit to the Western Wall and Jewish Quarters
- Dinners at Satya Restaurant and Wine & Cheese
- Restaurant on rooftop of Notre Dame

Book your trip today!

visit <https://www.pilgrimages.com/dcnhunt/>

Are you looking for more?
Do you long for a renewed sense of life?
DO YOU WISH YOU HAD A DEEPER LIFE IN GOD?

We have just the thing!

Come join us for the **Life in the Spirit Seminar** starting February 1!

The Life in the Spirit Seminars are designed as an introduction to a life lived in the power of the Holy Spirit. They provide an opportunity for people to find out more about that life, and to be helped in taking the first steps of a new relationship with the Lord.

This seminar will be offered virtually via ZOOM. If you have a smart phone or a computer that can connect to the internet, then you have the capabilities to attend.

The 7-week seminar will meet from 7- 8:30 pm on the following Tuesday nights...

- February 1, 8, 15, 22
- March 1, 8, 15

Need more information? Interested in signing up?
Email catholiccharismaticprayergroup@gmail.com
or call Catherine at (860) 481-0959.



ST. JOHN'S Beautification Offering

This offering funds the beautification of our Altar. Your voluntary donation can be accompanied by the request that it be "In Memory/Appreciation Of", or "For the Intentions Of" someone.

**Pietro DeVita
Bill Fadden
Paul Fadden**

**Elizabeth T Harrington
Michael F Harrington
Barbara A Regan
Betty and Al Sherman**

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 which 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.

ST. MARY WEEKLY OFFERTORY	Weekend of January 22nd/23rd	Fiscal Year-To-Date January 23rd	Fiscal YTD Average/Week
Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses	\$15,000	\$450,000	\$15,000
Actual Received	\$16,463	\$426,493	\$14,216
Shortfall/ Overage	\$1,463	-\$23,507	-\$784

ST. JOHN WEEKLY OFFERTORY	Weekend of January 22nd/23rd	Fiscal Year-To-Date January 23rd	Fiscal YTD Average/Week
Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses	\$9,500	\$285,000	\$9,500
Actual Received	\$7,229	\$286,535	\$9,551
Shortfall/ Overage	-\$2,271	\$1,535	\$51

ST. MARGARET WEEKLY OFFERTORY	Weekend of January 22nd/23rd	Fiscal Year-To-Date January 23rd	Fiscal YTD Average/Week
Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses	\$5,550	\$166,500	\$5,550
Actual Received	\$3,271	\$128,674	\$4,289
Shortfall/ Overage	-\$2,279	-\$37,826	-\$1,261

GRAND ANNUAL AS OF JANUARY 22ND

	Goal	Raised	%age of Goal
St. Mary	\$90,000	\$52,741	58.60%
St. John	\$78,000	\$25,099	32.18%
St. Margaret	\$85,000	\$32,011	37.66%

THANK
you
FOR YOUR SUPPORT



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

GRADES 1-6 SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13

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

CLASS SCHEDULE

FIRST EUCHARIST PREP SUNDAY, JANUARY 30

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27

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

CONFIRMATION I SUNDAY, JANUARY 30

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13

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

CONFIRMATION II SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6 & 27

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



SACRAMENTAL PAPERWORK

Due Sunday,
 February 27

GRADES 7-8 SUNDAY, JANUARY 30

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27

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



FEBRUARY DEEP DIVE

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 FEBRUARY



ALL FAMILIES...

should Pray together daily, Attend Mass weekly, Attend Class/Disciple Group Monthly, & Complete one Deep Dive per Month

GRADE 1-6 STUDENTS WILL BE LEARNING HOW...

to fully participate in Mass by using all five senses.

GRADE 7&8 STUDENTS WILL BE COMPLETING...

Altaration: Session 5: The "why's" behind the "what's?"

CONFIRMATION I STUDENTS WILL BE COMPLETING...

Chosen Lesson 7: Where am I going?

CONFIRMATION II STUDENTS WILL BE COMPLETING...

Chosen Lesson 18: Are you Talking to Me?

Chosen Lesson 19: Who is Mary?

Chosen Lesson 20: What Would Jesus do?



On January 24th, we celebrated the feast day of Saint Francis de Sales. I was introduced to his life and his spiritual insights when I was in the seminary, and in many ways it has changed my life. Most of us, if we are

honest, tend to compare ourselves to others. On top of that, many times we come up with a negative evaluation of self in our comparisons. When we see that we do not match up to the other in what they are able to accomplish, we can truly feel inferior. Our negative feelings can manifest themselves in different ways towards the other, such as: jealousy, anger, bitterness, and the like. Our reactions to our feelings of inferiority can come across as being disrespectful and nasty.

These same feelings can manifest themselves in our spiritual life. Just think about how often people find reasons for not emulating the life of a saint. We look at the life of a saint and think that it is not a life we can possibly live because it is beyond our capabilities. We 'throw in the towel' and tell ourselves that the difficult aspects of Christian life are not for me. The truth and the reality are that we are all called to live the Christian life to its fullest demands. But how are we called to do that?

It is here that the teachings of Saint Francis de Sales can come to our aid. Saint Francis wrote a truly powerful work over 400 years ago that still speaks to Christian life today. What follows is taken from the Office of Readings for Saint Francis de Sales. He says it better than I can.

“When God the Creator made all things, He commanded the plants to bring forth fruit, each according to its own kind; He likewise commanded Christians, who are the living plants of his Church, to bring forth the fruits of devotion, each one in accord with his character, his station and his calling.

I say that devotion must be practiced in different ways by the nobleman and by the working man, by the servant and by the prince, by the widow, by the unmarried girl and by the married woman. But even this distinction is not sufficient; for the practice of devotion must be adapted to the strength, to the occupation, and to the duties of each one in particular.

Tell me, please, my Philothea, whether it is proper for a bishop to want to lead a solitary life like a Carthusian; or for married people to be no more concerned than a Capuchin about increasing their income; or for a working man to spend his whole day in church like a religious; or, on the other hand, for a religious to be constantly exposed like a bishop to all the events and circumstances that bear on the needs of our neighbor. Is not this sort of devotion ridiculous, unorganized and intolerable? Yet this absurd error occurs very frequently, but in no way does true devotion, my Philothea, destroy anything at all. On the contrary, it perfects and fulfills all things. In fact, if it ever works against, or is inimical

to, anyone's legitimate station and calling, then it is very definitely false devotion.

The bee collects honey from flowers in such a way as to do the least damage or destruction to them, and he leaves them whole, undamaged and fresh, just as he found them. True devotion does still better. Not only does it not injure any sort of calling or occupation, it even embellishes and enhances it.

Moreover, just as every sort of gem, cast in honey, becomes brighter and more sparkling, each according to its color, so each person becomes more acceptable and fitting in his own vocation when he sets his vocation in the context of devotion. Through devotion, your family cares become more peaceful, mutual love between husband and wife becomes more sincere, the service we owe to the prince becomes more faithful, and our work, no matter what it is, becomes more pleasant and agreeable.”

What I take from this reading is simple. Each of us is called to live a spiritual life. It is parse and parcel of what it means to be human. We are called to have a real relationship with God, for we are created to be in relationship with Him. However, we are not *all* called to do it in the same way.

In the way of life you are called to live, your vocation has a large part to do with your spiritual life. We are never called to look at how others are living their spiritual life and then compare ourselves to them. We can learn from the saints but we should not seek to completely emulate them. The life of any particular saint will be different from yours. Therefore, yes, look to their life for inspiration, but do not see your spiritual life as somehow a failure if it does not match up to theirs.

Furthermore, we must realize that our spiritual life will change over time. A young woman who is not married will have different expectations than a married woman. The spiritual life of a woman who is married without children will be different than the woman who is married with children. It continues that the life of a woman with grown children will yet be different. What we are doing in our lives and how we are called to live our lives will ultimately impact how we are called to be in relationship with God. As such, our spiritual life will change over time.

Ultimately, there is no perfect devout life. Rather, we are on a journey with the Lord and in that journey, we will encounter God in many different ways. The power of Christian life is not found in its uniformity but in its diversity of expression. We can all learn things from each other, but we are not called to do everything exactly the same. Let us then seek to make this journey in whatever way God is calling us to.

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.

From our Pastoral Associate

Sr. Lori Fleming

Take time to pray for the sick and all caregivers.

*“Be merciful,
even as your Father is merciful” -Luke 6:36*

This year on February 11th, we observe the 30th World Day of the Sick. This special day was initiated in 1992 by St. John Paul II, to encourage people to pray for and to be attentive to those suffering from illness, and also for their caregivers.

In choosing *“Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful” (Lk 6:36)* as the theme for this year, Pope Francis encourages us:

- to look to the source of all healing—God, our Creator, whom we know in relationship as a merciful Father.
- to acknowledge the witness of Jesus’ merciful outreach to all—the mission he entrusts to each of us through our baptism to proclaim the good news and to heal the sick.
- to remind healthcare givers that the dignity and responsibility of their profession allows them to use their hands to touch the suffering flesh of Christ—with intent, as a sign of the merciful hands of the Father.
- to see healthcare facilities as “houses of mercy”—a focus on caring for the sick and their families, protecting and caring for all life, even the most fragile, from beginning until natural end.
- to recognize our call to provide spiritual attention through presence and proximity—to offer God’s closeness, his blessing and his word, as well as the celebration of the sacraments.
- to remind everyone that closeness to the sick is their pastoral care; visiting the sick is an invitation that Christ addresses to all his disciples. How many sick and elderly people are living at home and waiting for a visit!

Pope Francis’ Prayer: Dear brothers and sisters, to the intercession of Mary, Health of the Infirm, I entrust all the sick and their families. United with Christ, who bears the pain of the world, may they find meaning, consolation and trust. I pray for healthcare workers everywhere, that, rich in mercy, they may offer patients, together with suitable care, their fraternal closeness.

May each of us take time to pray and to plan ahead to observe this World Day of the Sick, with an intentional choice to show merciful care to the sick and to all care givers.

From our Permanent Deacon

Deacon Frank Perez de Alderete

What is Love?

Today’s second reading picks up where last week’s ended. Paul continues to talk about the Gifts of the Spirit (or Fruits of the Spirit). He’s addressing a kerfuffle in Corinth among the new Christians who were judging each other based on the spiritual gift they were given. We’d probably say that that’s a good problem to have, where the community is so filled with the Spirit that they are actually arguing about it. Paul brings the argument to a close by reminding everyone that none of it means anything if you don’t have love.

But what is love? In English, the word “love” means a lot of things. We can love coffee, we can love our pet, we can love our spouse, we can love our kids, we can love God. We know, even without thinking about it, that “love” has different meanings depending on how we use it. So how is Paul using it?

Greek has many words which we translate to ‘love’, so if we look to the word that Paul wrote (*agape*), we find that it is the selfless kind of love, the kind of love that God has for us and that we should return to God, and the kind of love we’re supposed to extend to each other. What Paul is telling the Corinthians is that if we don’t love one another as God loves us, nothing else matters. For the Corinthians, this meant an end to jealousy over the Gifts of the Spirit. But what does it mean for us?

Paul wants to make sure that the people of the Corinthian Church understand what that kind of love really is, so he proceeds to list the attributes of this love. There’s a reason this passage is so popular for weddings; it’s a reminder of the responsibilities of love: patience, kindness, humility, selflessness, slow to anger, faithfulness, truthfulness, and hopefulness. It’s a poetic passage, but it’s also a great reminder to all of us, especially when we’re challenged with situations where it’s hard to love someone.

Paul enumerates all these characteristics because he understands that love—this special kind of love—is at the very core of being a Christian. Without it, everything else is meaningless; love is that important. Paul is telling the Corinthian Church—and us as well—how we can express the love God has for us to each other. In fact, a friend of mine noted that if you replace the word “love” in this passage with “God” it helps us understand just how profoundly God loves us, not just in a theoretical way, but in practical ways. Most importantly, God, and love, never fail.



Mass Intentions

If you would like to request that a Mass be celebrated for a specific intention or person, please call the parish office. A donation of \$10 per intention is requested when you schedule your intention.

St. John the Evangelist

SAT, JAN 29	4:00 pm:	People of the Parish
SUN, JAN 30	9:30 am:	Angela O'Keeffe: 4th Anniversary
	6:00 pm:	LIVING INTENTION: Healing for Don Lussier
MON, JAN 31	9:00 am:	LIVING INTENTION: Healing for George Kadarian
WED, FEB 2	9:00 am:	LIVING INTENTION: Fr. Colletti 60th Anniversary of Ordination
FRI, FEB 4	9:00 am:	LIVING INTENTION: Healing for Maura Menichini
SAT, FEB 5	4:00 pm:	Debi Leavis: 3rd Anniversary Gamache Family: Memorial
SUN, FEB 6	9:30 am:	Stephen Gadbois: 1st Anniversary Frances and John Shaughnessy: Memorial Mauricio Valencia: Memorial
	6:00 pm:	People of the Parish

St. Margaret of Scotland

SAT, JAN 29	4:00 pm:	People of the Parish
SUN, JAN 30	7:30 am:	Edna Flowers: Memorial
	10:00 am:	Frances C Moynihan: Memorial
WED, FEB 2	9:00 am:	LIVING INTENTION: Fr. Colletti 60th Anniversary of Ordination
SAT, FEB 5	4:00 pm:	Maurice Bergeron: 9th Anniversary
SUN, FEB 6	7:30 am:	People of the Parish
	10:00 am:	Edward Bucky Boehm: 6th Anniversary Daniel Boehm Sullivan: 23rd Anniversary Mary Boehm: 16th Anniversary Daniel Neveux: 33rd Anniversary Roland Neveux: 4th Anniversary Jerry Patel: Memorial

St. Mary Parish

SAT, JAN 29	4:00 pm:	Gary James Dudek: 1st Anniversary
SUN, JAN 30	7:00 am:	Franklin J Boyd: Memorial
	11:00 am:	People of the Parish
MON, JAN 31	7:00 am:	Robin Mullin: Memorial
WED, FEB 2	9:00 am:	LIVING INTENTION: Fr. Colletti 60th Anniversary of Ordination
SAT, FEB 5	4:00 pm:	Raymond Anstiss, Sr: 12th Anniversary LIVING INTENTION: Happy 90th Birthday Paul Faber
SUN, FEB 6	7:00 am:	People of the Parish
	11:00 am:	Michael Slattery: 8th Anniversary Patrick Slattery: 7th Anniversary Katherine Taylor: 2nd Anniversary

Rose for Life



Is there someone special you'd like to honor? Consider 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.

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.

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.

Funeral Recently Celebrated

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



Michael J. LaValle
Tuesday, January 25 • St. John
Barbara White
Friday, January 28 • St. John
Patricia Kidder
Friday, January 28 • St. Mary



DOLAN FUNERAL HOME

106 Middlesex Street
North Chelmsford

James F. Dolan James F. Dolan II

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

 CALL
800.477.4574

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"



ED OLIVERI, REALTOR / PARISHIONER

978-551-2944 | EdOliveri@aol.com

Servicing the Merrimack Valley
& surrounding area. MA & NH licensed



TESSIER 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



Enterprise
Bank

978-459-9000
Member FDIC

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.

ANNMARIE ROARK

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



O'Donnell FUNERAL HOME

“Discover the Difference”

276 Pawtucket Street • Lowell, MA 01854

James F. O'Donnell, Jr. Funeral Director

A Tradition of Caring

Celebrating Over 135 Years 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

We've Missed You!

Welcome Back to Mass



*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



Ad info. 1-800-477-4574 • Publication Support 1-800-888-4574 • www.4lpi.com

Holy Rood Collaborative

03-1137