



St. Mary-St. Catherine Of Siena

Roman Catholic Parish

Charlestown, Massachusetts ▪ Archdiocese of Boston

Est. April 18, 2006

stmarystcatherine.org

December 1, 2019

Welcome! To visitors to our Parish, to those who have recently moved into the area and to those comfortable and nourished here—*Welcome To All*. And, regardless of your status in the Church, your marital state, your ethnicity, your prior religious experience, your personal history, background or sexual orientation, please know that you are accepted and respected at Saint Mary–Saint Catherine of Siena Parish. Please introduce yourself to the priest and register as a member of our Parish.

Mission Statement To make active disciples of Jesus Christ by creating a welcoming community rich in spirituality and by moving people to embrace their God-given talents in the service of others and the care of creation.

About Us Saint Mary - Saint Catherine of Siena is an intentionally inclusive Roman Catholic Parish that welcomes all those who make up our diverse community in a way that reflects God's love. Nourished by the Gospel and the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, we build a vibrant Parish that strengthens our faith and elevates our worship. With gratitude for the gifts God has bestowed upon us, we respond to His call to stewardship and embrace our lives of service and compassion.

ADVENT – A TIME OF WAITING



Waiting is an everyday part of life in Ecuador: for busses, banks, stores, markets, almost anything and always, one waits. Slowly, it became clear to me that efficiency and availability of resources in any form are luxuries and not the experience of the poor. The poor wait. Actually, this truth is captured in the common use of the phrase and concept of *mañana*, usually meaning whatever one is looking or waiting for will not be available today, but maybe tomorrow. Wait.

I am not a patient man – I hate to wait for anything. Usually, I am impatient with myself and with anyone else and so, for me, waiting requires a change of attitude and all the rest. I have to step back and take the long view. I need to see the moment in the context of the big picture and, although I don't easily choose that, I confess that to wait can be a good thing. I mean to say the waiting invites me inside myself and helps me slow down and reflect, often finding the cause of my impatience groundless – in the big picture.

Advent is a time of waiting, but not a time of emptiness or frustration. The Church urges us to use these weeks to grow in patience and to reflect on the big picture, something beneficial for all of us. These weeks and the rich liturgies of these Advent days, speak of the hope of the ages: that

One is coming to bring relief and freedom.

These can be the days to wonder about our own freedom and the areas of shadow and darkness within ourselves. And in the midst of the waiting, remembering that Christ seeks us out, always ready to bring light into our darkness. And so we can invite him into our shadows.

Advent is a beautiful time to even refresh our dreams for ourselves, for our family and friends, and yes, even our world. What might they be? What stands in the way of these dreams becoming real? How can we overcome these obstacles? Maybe these waiting days can help us to see with greater clarity what matters most in our lives and choose to move away from less important stuff.

Waiting in the Advent time can be like going to the gym to exercise; we grow in strength and stamina in a good way. Yet this kind of waiting is best when complemented by prayer and acts of kindness. The prayer can be simple, a daily time of quiet and maybe reading a passage from Sacred Scripture or a devotional book.

This season often provides many opportunities to reach out to those in need in whatever way we feel God is calling us to do. Any opportunity to express charity and solidarity with the poor and suffering can transform waiting to a time of Grace.

Among the poor where waiting is a way of life, one rarely waits alone. People stand together. People reach out to others and many share something of their stories – amazing than that the waiting often brings with it the gift of solidarity with others. Think about it: have you noticed how an unexpected delay in a flight or something,

Inside: Coping With Grief

Mass Schedule

Saturday – St. Mary Church

4:00 p.m.

Sunday – St. Mary Church

8:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m. Family Mass

6:00 p.m. (*in Chapel during Summer months*)

Daily Mass Mon.-Fri., 8:00 a.m. at **St. Catherine of Siena Chapel** (entrance on Soley St. side of Church)

Holidays 9:00 a.m. in Chapel

Reconciliation 3:45 p.m. Saturday in Church or by appointment

Baptism Visit stmaryscatherine.org/sacraments/ for our schedule or call Sr. Nancy at (617) 242-4664. Preparation classes are held for Parents and Godparents on the preceding Friday of the monthly baptism at 7PM in the Parish Center.

Pastor

Fr. James J. Ronan

Pastoral Associate

Sr. Nancy Citro, SNDdeN

Business Manager

James Santosuosso

Social Ministry Director

Thomas J. MacDonald

Pastoral Assistant, Faith Formation

Katy Fleming

Director of Music

Matthew Arnold

Administrative Assistant

Dianne Ludy

Staff emails are first initial with last name (example, "jsmith@stmaryscatherine.org")

Clergy In Residence

Fr. Jerome Gillespie

Fr. Ken Chemizie O.C.D.

Fr. Anthony Nweke C.S.S.p.

Fr. Britto Dhinakaran

Visiting Clergy

Fr. Pat Universal

Hispanic Ministry

Blanca Paz

Vice Chairs Pastoral Council

Brendon Sullivan

Vice Chair Finance Council

Nancy Higgins

finds one suddenly speaking to another such that frequently friendship and stories are shared? Often enough the wait becomes something much less burdensome and the moment is transformed.

Advent is a time to wait ... ahh not just an ordinary inconvenience, but rather a special time that contains immeasurable Grace for those who would choose to wait with the Church and to engage in quiet,

prayer, reflection, personal growth, and charity. If, like the poor, we allow this waiting to help us grow in greater solidarity with one another, and, if we embrace these opportunities with joyful anticipation of the gift of a greater unity with Christ, the fruits that will be harvested in our lives and the difference this can make in our world will make this Advent a true time of miraculous Grace.

Fr. Ronan

GRAND ANNUAL UPDATE

Thank you to the 175 Parishioners who have contributed to our Grand Annual Collection. Because of your generosity, to date, \$76,939 has been raised. Just a reminder that anything raised over \$80,000 will be matched dollar to dollar up to \$10,000.00 helping us reach our goal of \$100,00.00. Again, thank you.



December 1 ~ First Sunday of Advent

The message is clear on this first Sunday of Advent: "Walk in the light of the Lord"; "Stay awake..."; "You must be prepared..."; "Put on the Lord Jesus Christ." The Church gives us this holy season as a time for us to re-order our lives and our priorities. While our culture will try to distract us from the importance of Christ's birth, take a few

minutes each day in prayer to extend a personal invitation to Jesus to come into your life. Your prayer will produce gratitude and your gratitude will foster hope in the Lord



Our Stewardship Prayer by the Welcoming Committee

Heavenly Father, instill in our hearts a spirit of love and compassion. May we foster a welcoming parish community with acceptance and respect for all. Inspire us to make a difference by being generous with our time and talents. Please send your Holy Spirit among us to remind us to follow Jesus and his teachings in all aspects of our lives. As we end this Mass, may we go forth and spread goodwill among our neighbors, friends, and fellow parishioners. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen

**The Church is handicap-accessible on Soley Street.
The Chapel is handicap-accessible on Winthrop Street.**

Parish Center & Eucharistic Chapel

46 Winthrop Street 617-242-4664

Saint Mary Church
55 Warren Street

Saint Catherine of Siena Chapel

Warren and Soley Street

Social Ministry Office
49 Vine Street 617-580-8305

Good Shepherd School
20 Winthrop Street 617-242-8800

Visit us at
stmaryscatherine.org
and
[facebook.com/
stmaryscatherine](https://facebook.com/stmaryscatherine)



Adviento es mucho más que una palabra sabia que los curas emplean durante cuatro semanas en la liturgia de la Iglesia. Adviento es un estado de ánimo, símbolo de la Gran Espera, la Espera eterna. Adviento no es una pregunta sino una respuesta a la pregunta: ¿Qué estamos haciendo aquí?

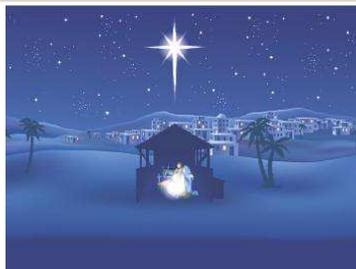
Vladimir y Estragón en la obra de teatro de Beckett “Esperando a Godot” se preguntan: ¿”Qué estamos haciendo aquí? Estamos esperando a Godot. ¿Y si no viene? Nos ahorcaremos mañana. ¿Y si viene? Estaremos salvados”.

Los evangelios de los últimos domingos nos invitaban a preparar el Gran Final: “No quedará piedra sobre piedra. Habrá grandes terremotos, hambre... Resulta un tanto molesto y aburrido comenzar el Adviento con el miedo al ladrón que viene sin avisar durante la noche. Ni ustedes ni yo, por más viejos que seamos, le tenemos miedo al ladrón, ¿verdad que no? Ni ustedes ni yo lo esperamos hoy, ¿verdad que no? El evangelio de este primer domingo de Adviento es una invitación a vigilar, a estar despiertos. ¿Qué hacen los conductores cuando les entra el sueño? ¿Qué hacen los feligreses cuando el rollo del cura se prolonga más de lo habitual? Las recetas contra el sueño son numerosas: unos salen a estirar las piernas, otros toman dos cafés, otros se lavan la cara con agua fría, otros optan por dar una cabezada, con mucho la mejor solución.

¿Y nosotros los cristianos, ignorantes del día del Señor, que podemos hacer para salir del letargo espiritual que nos domina? Mirar al pasado es cosa de viejos y sin embargo el pasado está lleno de lecciones que no debemos olvidar. Es la historia de nuestra familia, de nuestro pueblo. Hay pueblos vacíos que ahora viven en la red. Sus habitantes dispersos por el mundo viven conectados en la red. Se niegan a enterrar el pasado y a morir. Nuestro pasado cristiano tiene un nombre, Navidad. La primera Navidad que preparemos cada Adviento con la misma ilusión que cuando éramos niños.

Adviento hace memoria de un pasado vital, sin el acontecimiento Jesús ninguno de nosotros estaríamos aquí. Mira a un pasado no congelado en el frigorífico de la historia sino vivo y activo, siempre recordado y reactualizado. El Adviento nos invita a mirar al futuro. Jesús vendrá como ladrón en la noche, no para asustarnos sino para plenificarnos. Nosotros estamos aquí, no tenemos que ir a ninguna parte. Él viene a nosotros. Cinco veces hemos leído en el evangelio el verbo venir. A nosotros nos toca vivir la espera de lo inesperado con ilusión. Los cristianos no brindamos por el pasado, por glorioso que haya sido, brindamos por el futuro porque el futuro es Dios y nosotros seremos de Dios.

La primera venida la vivimos cada Navidad. La segunda la viviremos en gloriosa majestad. Velad. Hoy, en este presente de nuestra vida, dos cosas son las que Dios quiere que hagamos: trabajar, ser fieles a nuestros compromisos humanos, hacer un mundo más amable, más justo, más fraterno, cuidar la creación, amar a los hermanos que son los que nos necesitan. Amar a Dios, nuestro presente y nuestro futuro. Y esperar. Godot vino, viene y vendrá. Y seremos salvados.



Coping With Grief

For those who find rejoicing difficult this time of year

Christmas is indeed a time for rejoicing, but it is also about

the cross and the promise we've been given because of Christ's Resurrection. When all of the messages around us are telling us that we should be joyful and celebratory, please know that it is normal to feel sad, especially this time of year, when we have lost loved ones or are experiencing any kind of difficulty.

While some may tell us to “get over it,” Jesus says, “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”

On Saturday, December 14 at 10AM at the Parish Center on 46 Winthrop Street we will gather to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas, to pray for those we miss and for ourselves, allowing the God of all consolation to comfort us in our sorrow. In order to plan for this service, we ask that you RSVP by calling the Parish Center, 617-242-4664, by Wednesday, December 11th.



FYI - The Feast of the Immaculate Conception falls on a Sunday this year. We are celebrating the feast on Monday December 9 in the Chapel at the 8:00 AM Mass. However, as the feast falls on a Sunday, it is not a Holy Day of Obligation this year.

December in Our Parish

Nov 30/Dec 1 – Season of Advent begins with the lighting of the Advent wreath at all Masses.

December 8 – Immaculate Conception (Sunday)

December 19 @ 7:00 PM - Advent Prayer and Reconciliation Service

December 15, 3:30 Copley Singers Christmas Concert (free)

December 21/22, All Masses - Remembering Our Loved Ones Who Have Gone to God:

December 24: Carols at 4:30, Christmas Eve Mass at 5PM

December 25: Christmas Masses at 8AM and 10:30AM, no 6PM Mass

Religious Ed Classes:

12/8 Sun

12/10 Tues

12/15 Sun

12/17 Tues

Confirmation Class

12/8

12/15

Baptisms

12/13 Baptism Class @ 7:00 PM

12/15 Baptisms at 1:30PM



Faith sharing groups continue – it's not too late to join. Call Parish Office, 617-242-4664 for more information

Giving Trees – Please pick a tag and help make Christmas a little brighter for some one in need. We ask that gifts be delivered to the Church no later than December 15.



SAVE THE DATE FOR THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT WITH THE

COPLEY SINGERS
DECEMBER 15, 2019
3:30 PM
**RIGHT HERE IN THE UPPER
CHURCH**



There are **Christmas Flower envelopes** in the back of the Church for those who would like to make a donation in memory of a loved one. The flowers are placed on the Altar for Christmas. Be sure to include the name of your loved one on the envelope. Names submitted by Sunday, December 15 will be included in the bulletin for Christmas. You may drop the envelope in the collection basket or mail to the Parish Center at 46 Winthrop Street. All names received after that date will be added to a future bulletin. Thank you.



GIVING TREES - As is our tradition, your generosity provides Christmas aid to St. Mary Center for Women and Children, Charlestown Recovery House, The McLaughlin House, Sisters of Saint Joseph Prison Ministry and for our parish's Saint Vincent de Paul.

Due to Dept. of Corrections security regulations, gifts for Sisters of St. Joseph Prison Ministry must be monetary donations. The Chaplain will buy needed items such as combs, shampoo, soap, deodorant, calendars, lotion, tooth paste, stationary, and pens which will then be inspected by DOC. Once the items are approved by security, the items will be assembled in gift bags within the prison by Chaplaincy Volunteers.

For the Saint Vincent de Paul, there will be envelopes on the tree for a donation. Saint Vincent de Paul has helped 61 families in our community with rental assistance and furniture since January 1st of this year.

Please note that gifts should be unwrapped or placed in gift bags. **Please attach the tag to the outside of the package so that we can deliver your gift to the appropriate program. Please bring your gifts to Church or the Parish Center by Sunday, December 15 for delivery to the recipients by Parish Volunteers. Many thanks for your kindness!**

PICTURES FROM GOOD SHEPHERD SCHOOL TEN YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION





BANNS OF MARRIAGE



II Randy Giedt & Erin Reilly



ALL HANDS ON DECK!

The Parish could use some helping hands to clean the interior of St. Mary's Church for Christmas on **Saturday, December 21 at 9:00 a.m.** Can you join us for this important activity? Coffee will be available! If you can spare some time, please let us know at 617-242-4664 or email dludy@stmaryscatherine.org



AND

On **Tuesday, December 24 at 9:00 AM**, we will be decorating the Church for Christmas. For those who are interested in helping, please let us know! (see above)

Advent Prayer and Reconciliation Service

Thursday, December 19 at 7 p.m. in Saint Mary's Church

The Advent Season is an appropriate time of year to reflect on our lives in a Sacramental way, and to engage in special moments of prayer to prepare for a new birth of Christ in our hearts this Christmas season. It's a time to set our course for the New Year!

Let's come together as a community of faith and give ourselves the gift of time to slow down and ponder the many ways in which God blesses and sustains each of us in our daily lives, and longs to grow closer to us with unconditional love.

At the conclusion of the Service, if you choose, you may receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation privately with a priest. We hope you will join us for this extraordinary time of prayer.

REMEMBERING OUR LOVED ONES WHO ARE WITH GOD

Weekend of December 21/22

At all of our Masses on the weekend of December 21 and 22, we will have a Ritual of Remembrance for all of our loved ones who have gone to God. At the conclusion of Mass you are invited to place one sand dollar in memory of your loved ones on the Parish Christmas tree by the piano, approaching it from the Winthrop Street aisle.

Go to God with all of your sorrows, that He may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you. Be alert and of sober mind. Do not let doubt or any kind of negative thinking overpower you. Resist it, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is under-going the same kind of sufferings. And though it will take time, God of all grace, who called you in Christ, will restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To Him be the power for ever and ever. Amen. (1 Peter 5:6-11-Adapted)



Gratefully acknowledging that God gives us all, we each willingly offer our unique gifts to one another and all creation in the Spirit of Jesus Christ.



Please pray for those serving in our
Armed Forces and their families:

- Ralph Rizzo, Jr. (Marines)
- Joseph Upton, Jr. (Marines)
- Kenneth (Army)
- Jackie Walsh (Army)

If you have a loved one serving in the
military, please contact the Parish at 617-
242-4664.

MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY 11/30

**4:00 PM + THOMAS & MARIE
MULDOON; THOMAS & BEA
MULDOON & ELEANOR & BOB
EMERY**

SUNDAY 12/01

8:00 AM
10:30 AM PARISHIONER INTENTIONS
6:00 PM + FRANCES ROWSEY

• **ROSARY SAID BEFORE DAILY MASS**

MONDAY 12/02

8:00 AM

TUESDAY 12/03

**8:00 AM - FOR BOLIVIA - FOOD & NE
CESSITIES BEING BLOCKED FOR
DELIVERY**

WEDNESDAY - 12/04

8:00 AM PARISH PRAYER GUILD

THURSDAY 12/05

**8:00 AM FOR THE SAFETY OF FRESIA'S
FAMILY IN BOLIVIA**

FRIDAY 12/06

8:00 AM FOR BARBARA & ED TOBIN

5:30 PM EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

SATURDAY 12/07

4:00 PM PARISHIONER INTENTIONS

SUNDAY 12/08

8:00 AM + ANNA MULRENNAN
10:30 AM + THOMAS REGAN
6:00 PM + JOAN & DAN BLAKE

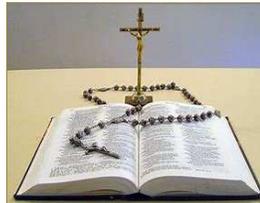


**Sanctuary Lamp in St
Mary Church**

**Is lit for
Ginevro Caranfa
And
The Sanctuary Lamp
in the Chapel is lit for
John "Buster" Woods**

Rosary For Peace

In her apparitions at Fatima, Our Lady
instructed us to pray the rosary for peace.
We gather every first Saturday of the
month at the Parish Center to pray for
peace. Please
join us on Sat-
urday, De-
cember 7 at
9:00 AM



UPCOMING COLLECTIONS

December 08: Monthly

December 15: Parish Christmas
Collection

ATTENDANCE

SAT 11/23	4:00 PM -	90
SUN 11/24	8:00 AM -	99
SUN 11/24	10:30 AM -	156
SUN 11/24	6:00 PM -	49
TOTAL:		394



Weekend of 11/24/2019

Parishioners contributed:
\$ 8,122.55
To the Weekly Collection
And
\$1,785.00
To the Retired Religious
Collection

**Thank you for your
continued support**

PARISH MINISTRIES

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- CHRISTMAS CAROLERS
- HARVEST ON VINE
- PRISON MINISTRY
- ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
- ZELMA LACY ASSISTED LIVING

FAITH FORMATION & ENRICHMENT

- ADULT CONFIRMATION
- BAPTISM TEAM
- CENTERING PRAYER
- CONFIRMATION
- CURSILLO
- FAITH SHARING
- PRAYER FOR PEACE
- RCIA
- RELIGIOUS ED K - 8

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

- ALTAR SERVERS
- ALTAR SOCIETY
- ARIMATEA SOCIETY
- CANA SOCIETY
- EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS
- GREETERS
- LECTORS
- MUSIC MINISTRY
- ST. MATTHEW SOCIETY
- USHERS

PARISH COUNCILS

- FINANCE COUNCIL
- PASTORAL COUNCIL
- STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE &
WELCOMING COMMITTEE

SOCIAL GROUPS

- CATHOLIC YOUNG ADULTS IN
CHARLESTOWN (CYAC)
- COFFEE HOUR
- PLAYGROUP

*To learn more and/or become
involved contact us at
617-242-4664 and check out
the web site!*

stmarystcatherine.org