



St. Mary-St. Catherine Of Siena

Roman Catholic Parish

Charlestown, Massachusetts ▪ Archdiocese of Boston

Est. April 18, 2006

stmarystcatherine.org

December 8, 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.

TAKING TIME FOR GOD

I wrote this column several years ago while on retreat. It seems to me to be a helpful reminder of how we all may wish to enter into this holy and waiting season: preparing to receive The Light of the world this Christmas.



A moment ago I looked and they were not there. The male arrived first and after a few moments, the smaller female arrived. The wind was so strong off the ocean that I wondered if they had landed to take shelter from them and find a safe place for the evening. Canadian Geese – evidently on their way south and needing a stopping-off place. They found one in front of my window on Eastern Point, along the rugged Atlantic coastline on Cape Ann in Gloucester, in the middle of my eight day silent retreat at this beautifully simple Jesuit retreat house. There, I was noticing the signs of the majesty and beauty of God all around me.

And now she set about munching on the still green grass; he kept vigil nearby in full alert status, looking to his left and right and changing position to always have a clear view of all angles

from where his mate was feeding. “Astonishing, amazing”, I thought watching these beautiful birds display their stateliness outside my window. Just one more expression of God’s creation, the mysteries of which are so very evident, when one stops, is silent, listens and looks about.

All priests in the Archdiocese are expected to make an annual retreat someplace, and for more than twenty years I have made the drive to Gloucester for mine - to this place which has become home for me. St. Ignatius of Loyola is the founder of the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits). Ignatius also founded a spirituality; a way of approaching prayer, meditation and discernment of God’s Spirit. The teachings of Ignatius have been preserved and studied by Jesuits and others for more than 500 years. And today, they have been made available to millions of laypeople, religious and clergy outside the Jesuit family.

For me the annual retreat is as essential as breathing. A parish priest is expected to preach and teach about God, prayer and the spiritual life. It stands to reason that we cannot give what we do not have. That is to say, our own relationship with God must be



Second Sunday of Advent

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

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

deepened, renewed, refreshed and invigorated regularly if we are to be a continued resource of spirituality for our people. And so, in addition to my ongoing prayer life, several hours of prayer each day for eight days each year in the silence and beauty of Eastern Point works for me.

I'm wondering how to summarize the fruits of these days for you; don't know if I can. But a few thoughts: God's wish to draw each of us closer in love and mercy seems more evident than ever. Yet there are so many obstacles for each of us to experience this closeness! We hunger for peace and serenity as well as joy in our daily life, yet don't always

know how to find it. We are tired all too often and greet one another with explanations of how busy we have been and are. We are productive, successful, efficient and well off – yet often spiritually impoverished.

There is no solution to this conundrum other than a conscious choice to make room for God in our life. Attending Sunday Eucharist, engaging in some daily moments of prayer and quiet, allowing yourself to savor the beauty of God's creation and the many gifts you have received will nourish and strengthen your life in unimaginable ways.

Fr. Ronan



Second Sunday of Advent

December 7/8, 2019

In today's Gospel reading John the Baptist warns his listeners: "Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!" The Church's yearly Advent herald is a call to repentance. The season of Advent urges us to be open to a conversion of heart. Christian stewards heed this call daily, and take the need for conversion in their lives seriously. As a family of faith, do we hear this call to conversion amidst the massive holiday spending? The increase in credit card debt? The urge to buy things that are not necessary? The incivility on the roadways during the holidays? Are there patterns in our own lives that need to be converted?



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



Un profesor de universidad, al principio de curso quiso sorprender a sus nuevos alumnos y les dijo: voy a demostrarles que Dios no existe. Miró al cielo y gritó: Dios, si existes, quiero que me derribes de un golpe de esta plataforma. Te doy diez minutos. La clase entera permaneció en silencio. Se podía oír la respiración de los alumnos. El profesor gritó de nuevo: Aquí me tienes. Te estoy esperando. Cuando faltaban dos minutos entró en el aula un estudiante alto y musculoso, caminó hasta la plataforma del profesor y le dio tal golpe que cayó rodando de la plataforma. El estudiante se sentó en la primera fila en medio de un gran silencio. Cuando el profesor se recuperó del golpe y volvió a su plataforma miró al joven y le dijo: ¿Por qué me pegó?

Dios está muy ocupado y me envió a mí a cumplir su deseo. Segundo domingo de Adviento y Fiesta de la Inmaculada. Dos fiestas que requieren nuestra atención nuestro interés por las cosas de Dios. Yo no sé si Dios está muy ocupado, pero sí sé que

cada domingo nos envía a alguien para darnos el golpe de gracia que nos haga salir de nuestra indiferencia y de nuestra frialdad. Hoy, Dios nos envía a dos predicadores para recordarnos que existe y que vino, viene y vendrá. Adviento no es “la Navidad ya está cerca”.

Adviento es “Cristo viene. Cerca está el Reino de Dios”. Adviento es preparar la venida de Jesús. A Él le toca completar la obra. Juan Bautista, estrafalario en su atuendo, en su aspecto y en su dieta, es más estridente aún por su mensaje. Es un predicador poco simpático y no gusta a casi nadie. Es la voz que predica la conversión y el arrepentimiento. Es el último profeta que viene a denunciar e insultar a todos pero especialmente a los profesionales de la religión. La gente sencilla confesaba sus pecados y él los bautizaba en el río Jordán.

Los profesionales de la religión, los fariseos y los saduceos, los que presumen de tener a Abrahán por padre, los que ya no esperan a nadie, los que parecen santos pero son sólo cumplidores de la letra muerta, los que se creen salvados por servir y guardar el tinglado religioso, a estos Juan los insulta, les llama “raza de víboras”, “árboles con el hacha a la raíz”, “paja para la hoguera”.

Estos profesionales de la religión, más por curiosidad que por devoción, acudieron a escuchar al nuevo predicador al aire libre predicar el mensaje de arrepentimiento y de la necesaria conversión, conversión que todos necesitamos y que nunca conseguimos del todo. Yo sé que todos ustedes son más consumidores de religión que pecadores que quieren arrepentirse de verdad este Adviento. Sabemos que los profesionales de la religión, fariseos y saduceos, siguieron cumpliendo fielmente con la religión, pero ignoraron lo nuevo, al que es siempre nuevo, a Jesús, el que traía el Reino de Dios, el fuego del Espíritu que todo lo hace nuevo.

A nosotros, los aquí reunidos, nos llama pecadores, palabra que ya no suena a insulto y no nos molesta porque hemos perdido el sentido del pecado, porque la palabra pecador y otras palabras religiosas han perdido su fuerza y la propaganda nos ha anestesiado. Lo único que nos preocupa es cumplir con la calderilla de la religión y seguir viviendo como si nada pasara.

Hoy, fiesta de la Inmaculada, María y Juan Bautista son personajes centrales y necesarios en este magnífico escenario del Adviento. María no es la voz que grita, María es la joven que escucha la Palabra del mensajero de Dios, la joven que dice sí a la llamada de Dios. Dios llama a una joven ordinaria a una tarea extraordinaria. Dos personajes muy distintos, pero los dos necesarios. Ambos conectados íntimamente con Cristo. Estoy convencido de que María nos cae mejor que Juan Bautista. María es fe, obediencia, servicio, discípulo, contemplación, mientras que Juan es grito, ira, fuego, denuncia, atrevimiento liberador que nos asusta a los cristianos. Olvídense de la religión y conéctense con Cristo, esto es el Adviento.



FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE - December 12

The Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to St. Juan Diego in the 16th century in present day Mexico City, Mexico. Juan Diego saw an apparition of the Blessed Virgin on the Hill of Tepeyac on December 9, 1531, which happened to be the feast day of the Immaculate Conception in that time. Our Lady requested that a church be built on that site, which Juan Diego dutifully relayed to the bishop.

After a request by the bishop to prove her identity, Our Lady asked Juan Diego to gather roses that were growing on the hill (which were neither native to the area nor in season) and take them to the bishop. Juan Diego obeyed and placed the roses in his tilma (or cloak) to carry back to the bishop as evidence of Our Lady’s appearance. Upon opening the tilma to reveal the miraculous roses to the bishop, there was something even more miraculous present in the tilma—a striking image of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The Knights of Columbus have great resources on the miraculous image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, to whom the organization has a special devotion. Visit their interactive website [Secrets of the Guadalupe image](#).

GRAND ANNUAL UPDATE

I am very happy to announce that 187 parishioners have contributed \$82,790.00 to this year’s Grand Annual Collection. Now that we have surpassed \$80,000, a generous member of the Parish will match every dollar contributed (up to \$10,000). With this support and our hope that parishioners yet to contribute will do so, I am very hopeful we will reach or surpass our needed goal of \$100,000. With the completion of a successful collection, we are set to have a balanced operating budget for the year: a wonderful achievement! - Fr. Ronan

Help Needed

In our continuing efforts to improve all of our communications from the Parish in the community, we have made a lot of progress. Our new website is excellent, our Parish Bulletin is lively, my columns in the local newspaper seem widely read and our new online bulletin is being well received.

All that being said, we do need to upgrade the designs on some of our pieces. I am asking if there is a graphic designer in the Parish who is willing to aid us – their help would be eagerly welcomed! Please send me a note or speak with me after Mass.

Fr. Ronan

jronan@stmaryscatherine.org



**NEXT WEEK
IS THE ANNUAL
CHRISTMAS CONCERT
WITH THE
COPLEY SINGERS**

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

**FREE CONCERT WITH DONATIONS ACCEPTED FOR
HARVEST ON VINE.
IN COLLABORATION WITH
THE FRIENDS OF THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY**



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.



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.



**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)

**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.

CHRISTMAS COLLECTIONS

As is the custom every year, the collection at all Christmas masses is for the Clergy health and retirement trust. This fund provides for the health and well-being of the active and senior priests in good standing in the Archdiocese of Boston. Our priests dedicate their lives to US and to

OUR Church. You can find out more information at www.clergytrust.org.

The Parish Christmas collection will support the Parish, and the works the Parish does at Christmas, and throughout the year. Thank you for your continued generosity .



BANNS OF MARRIAGE



III Randy Giedt & Erin Reilly

BAPTIZED DECEMBER 1

Rowan Catherine Finnegan



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@stmarystcatherine.org

HARVEST ON VINE - THANKSGIVING DISTRIBUTION



TODAY IS DECEMBER 8 - FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
There will be a Mass Monday morning at 8 to celebrate the Feast in the Chapel

Needs of the family seeking asylum: men's winter coats, 1 medium and 3 small coats. 2 bicycles in decent working order, helmets and bike locks. Gift cards that can be used to purchase groceries and school supplies. Items and questions can be directed to the parish center.





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 12/07
4:00 PARISHIONER INTENTIONS

SUNDAY 12/08
8:00 AM + ANNA MULRENNAN
10:30 AM + THOMAS REGAN
6:00 PM + JOAN & DAN BLAKE

• **ROSARY SAID BEFORE DAILY MASS**

MONDAY 12/09
8:00 AM FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION

TUESDAY 12/10
8:00 AM - FOR BOLIVIA - FOOD &
NECESSITIES BEING BLOCKED
FROM THOSE WHO NEED THEM

WEDNESDAY - 12/11
8:00 AM PARISH PRAYER GUILD

THURSDAY 12/12
8:00 AM + GERALD A. WALL

FRIDAY 12/13
8:00 AM FRESIA'S FAMILY

5:30 PM EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

SATURDAY 12/14
4:00 PM PARISHIONER INTENTIONS

SUNDAY 12/15
8:00 AM + THOMAS & MICHELLE
MOLES; EDWARD & MARGARET
WALSH; WILLIAM & EDWARD
WALSH & MARY MCGOWAN
10:30 AM + BARBARA CAYMAN PAPPAS
6:00 PM + DECEASED MEMBERS OF
THE COLLINS FAMILY



Sanctuary Lamp in St
Mary Church

Is lit for
Michael Moore
And
The Sanctuary Lamp
in the Chapel is lit for
Thomas J. Regan

Resquiescat in Pace

Theresa Christine Roche



*William "Bill"
King*

John P. McHugh

John "Jack" Roche

UPCOMING COLLECTIONS

December 08: Monthly
December 15: Parish Christmas
Collection
December 25: Christmas Clergy
Benefit

ATTENDANCE

SAT 11/30	4:00 PM -	86
SUN 12/01	8:00 AM -	63
SUN 12/01	10:30 AM -	140
SUN 12/01	6:00 PM -	63
TOTAL:		352



Weekend of 12/01/2019

Parishioners contributed:
\$ 5,229.55
To the Weekly 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
ARIMATHEA 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