

St. Mary-St. Catherine Of Siena

Roman Catholic Parish

Charlestown, Massachusetts ▪ Archdiocese of Boston

stmarystcatherine.org

Our Mission is 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.

November 22, 2020

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.

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.

Thanksgiving - 2020



As the number of those diagnosed with COVID continues to rise and fear and worry pervade the land, this week we celebrate one of the most cherished of our national holidays, Thanksgiving. Yet, for all of us, things are different this year. There are restrictions on public gatherings and likely many family mem-

bers cannot come together to share Thanksgiving. Many families have lost loved ones and many more face economic insecurity.

How do we celebrate a day of thanks when so many are suffering, sick, grieving, lonely and fearful? The first Thanksgivings were in response to abundant harvests. Subsequent celebrations also seem to call forth lists of items for which we are grateful. Maybe this year we want to change our approach to Thanksgiving by focusing not on what we have rather on who we are.

Each of us is a child of God, completely unique, precious and one-of-a kind! We are the work of God's hands, created in love and for the purpose of love. Everything we are is gift, every breath, smell, sound and taste. The energy of our Creator is Love and the longing of our hearts is Love. A visceral response to this truth must be gratitude. To give thanks to God for who we are, rather than what we have, is the most fundamental and critical form of gratitude. Living in that gratitude our response to those around us is more naturally authentic, grateful, and loving.

I recall Thanksgiving dinners with family and friends when the host invited each person gathered to share one thing for which he/she was grateful. Those moments were always beautiful as young and old, college students and grandparents spoke eloquently and from the heart. Yet this year, because we have all been changed by this pandemic, we can do more.



HAPPY THANKSGIVING



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 3:15 p.m. Saturday in Church or by appointment

Baptism Visit stmarystcatherine.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@stmarystcatherine.org")

Clergy In Residence

Fr. Jerome Gillespie

Fr. Ken Chemizie O.C.D.

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

Fr. Britto Dhinakaran

Hispanic Ministry

Blanca Paz

Vice Chairs Pastoral Council

Brendan Sullivan

Vice Chair Finance Council

Nancy Higgins

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

Perhaps Thanksgiving, 2020 offers each of us a sober moment to take stock of the immense struggles all around and perhaps within us. The harshness of this time is inescapable and it can also be an opportunity to strip away any superficialities of this holiday and embrace a new and deeper prayer of thanksgiving for our very being and the love that surrounds us.

Fr. Ronan

Men's Advent Faith Group

You are invited to join via Zoom with other guys in a faith sharing time every Tuesday morning, 6:30 – 7:45 during the 4 weeks of Advent. We'll begin on December 1 and conclude on the 22nd. If you would like to sign up please send a note to Fr. Ronan: ironan@stmarystcatherine.org.

POSITION OPEN

Since the beginning of the pandemic, our Parish emergency food pantry, Harvest on Vine, has become increasingly busy. With a client list of more than 300 families, all Charlestown residents, and food distributions bi-weekly, there are a lot of moving parts to make this happen. Tom MacDonald, as Director of the Parish Social Ministry Office, has continued doing a wonderful job in this very important ministry. Now, we need some more help at that office.

We are creating a new half-time position as Assistant Director, to help Tom manage the increased demands in that office.

Salary will be competitive with benefits. The approximately 20 hours per week will need to be flexible because that is the nature of the work. Some of the skills needed in the position are:

- Ability to load and unload pallets of food
- Good communication, writing and computer skills
- Ideally, facility with Spanish language
- Good organizing, accounting and management skills
- Valid Driver's License with transportation

Interested persons please send a letter to:

searchcommittee@stmarystcatherine.org



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**

JESUCRISTO REY DEL UNIVERSO

Las fuentes no admiten dudas. Jesús vive volcado hacia aquellos que ve necesitados de ayuda. Es incapaz de pasar de largo. Ningún sufrimiento le es ajeno. Se identifica con los más pequeños y desvalidos y hace por ellos todo lo que puede. Para él la compasión es lo primero. El único modo de parecernos a Dios: «*Sed compasivos como vuestro Padre es compasivo*».

¿Cómo nos va a extrañar que, al hablar del Juicio final, Jesús presente la compasión como el criterio último y decisivo que juzgará nuestras vidas y nuestra identificación con él? ¿Cómo nos va a extrañar que se presente identificado con todos los pobres y desgraciados de la historia?

Según el relato de Mateo, comparecen ante el Hijo del Hombre, es decir, ante Jesús, el compasivo, «todas las naciones». No se hacen diferencias entre «pueblo elegido» y «pueblo pagano». Nada se dice de las diferentes religiones y cultos. Se habla de algo muy humano y que todos entienden: ¿Qué hemos hecho con todos los que han vivido sufriendo?

El evangelista no se detiene propiamente a describir los detalles de un juicio. Lo que destaca es un doble diálogo que arroja una luz inmensa sobre nuestro presente, y nos abre los ojos para ver que, en definitiva, hay dos maneras de reaccionar ante los que sufren: nos compadecemos y les ayudamos, o nos desentendemos y los abandonamos.

El que habla es un Juez que está identificado con todos los pobres y necesitados: «*Cada vez que ayudasteis a uno de estos mis pequeños hermanos, lo hicisteis conmigo*». Quienes se han acercado a ayudar a un necesitado, se han acercado a él. Por eso han de estar junto a él en el reino: «*Venid, benditos de mi Padre*».

Luego se dirige a quienes han vivido sin compasión: «*Cada vez que no ayudasteis a uno de estos pequeños, lo dejasteis de hacer conmigo*». Quienes se han apartado de los que sufren, se han apartado de Jesús. Es lógico que ahora les diga: «*Apartaos de mí*». Seguid vuestro camino...

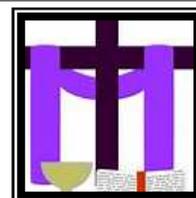
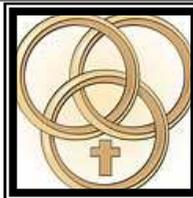
Nuestra vida se está jugando ahora mismo. No hay que esperar ningún juicio. Ahora nos estamos acercando o alejando de los que sufren. Ahora nos estamos acercando o alejando de Cristo. Ahora estamos decidiendo nuestra vida.



Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe November 21/22, 2020

In today's Gospel, Saint Matthew offers a compelling vision of the end-time, when the people of all the nations are brought before the Lord to give an account of their lives and actions. Interestingly, the sheep, the righteous ones, are rewarded for having acted with love and compassion without having recognized the face of Christ in others. Good stewards recognize those in need of their care as gifts from God. They know that they are the instruments of Christ's active, loving presence in the world. How will we treat others this week: our family members, neighbors, customers or strangers? What accounting will we make to the Lord for their care?

Dear Marian Friends, On Saturdays, we gather for our Saturday **Rosary via Zoom**. Sign on is at 8AM, and we will begin praying at 8:15AM. If you are interested, please email Donna at: donna.lecam@gmail.com for the Zoom information. **All are most welcome.**





A STEWARDSHIP PRAYER FOR THANKSGIVING

**GRACIOUS AND LOVING GOD, AS
THE AUTUMN SEASON**

**CONTINUES ITS TRANSFOR-
MATION AND THE DAYS BECOME
SHORTER, THE EARTH COOLER;**

**AS WE JOIN FAMILY AND FRIENDS
IN JOY AND CELEBRATION ON
THANKSGIVING DAY,**

**WE PAUSE TO GIVE YOU THANKS
AND PRAISE FOR THE ABUNDANT
BLESSINGS YOU HAVE BESTOWED
UPON US:**

**FOR LIFE AND HEALTH, SAFETY
AND COMFORT, FOOD AND NOUR-
ISHMENT.**

**THROUGH YOUR SPIRIT, OPEN
OUR HEARTS SO THAT WE MAY BE
EVEN BETTER STEWARDS OF
YOUR MANY BLESSINGS.**

**SHOW US HOW TO BE A BLESSING
FOR THE POOR, SICK, LONELY
AND ALL WHO SUFFER.**

**AND HELP US NURTURE THE GIFT
OF FAITH, REVEALED TO US BY
YOUR SON, JESUS CHRIST, OUR
GREATEST GIFT, WHO REIGNS
WITH YOU AND THE HOLY SPIR-
IT, ONE GOD FOREVER AND EVER.**

AMEN.



***The liturgical
season of
Advent,
begins this year
on
November 29,***

marks the time of spiritual preparation for the coming of Jesus anew at Christmas. It is also the beginning of a new liturgical year.

Advent begins on the Sunday closest to the Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle (Nov. 30). It spans four Sundays and four weeks of preparation, although the last week of Advent is usually truncated because of when Christmas falls.

The liturgical vestments are usually purple, and an Advent wreath is displayed prominently in the sanctuary of the Church. The circle of the Advent wreath represents that God is so great that God never had a beginning and will never have an end, and reminds us of the eternity of God's love for us and for all humanity. The four candles of the Advent wreath, three purple and one pink (joy) represent the hope, peace, joy and love that God sends through His Son, Jesus.

Let us take time this Advent season to slow down and spend some additional time in prayer as we reflect on the presence of Jesus in our lives and the meaning of His coming.



Psalms of Praise and Thanksgiving

The Thanksgiving holiday is an excellent time to rediscover the psalms of praise and thanksgiving. When you find a quiet moment, sit and relax with your Bible. Think of a time when awe and gratitude over-

whelmed you. Maybe it was a sunrise, or children playing in a park, an inspirational hymn at Mass, a family gathering, or a walk in the woods. Remember how you appreciated that special moment. Then, open your Bible to one of the psalms of thanksgiving and recite it to yourself. Take Psalm 118 for instance: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever. Listen to the words. Close your eyes. Let the psalm speak to you. Other psalms of praise and thanksgiving you might consider include Psalms 92, 95, 98, 100, 103, 104, 105, 107, 111, 117, 145, and 147. Whatever psalm you choose for that quiet moment, thank God for that special time of awe as well as all the good things in your life, and praise God for his glorious deeds.



**SATURDAYS AT 3:30 PM
OR BY APPOINTMENT**

By calling the Parish Office at
617-242-4664

GRAND ANNUAL

Below is the letter I sent to all registered parishioners regarding our Grand Annual Collection. If you did not receive a letter, it means you are not registered with us or we have an obsolete address. Please, take a moment to read the letter and consider making a much-needed donation. With gratitude, Fr. Jim Ronan

As I look out over the masked congregation at Mass, each person or family seated socially distanced from others, I am so grateful that our Parish is alive and moving forward even with all of the restrictions in place. Everything has changed and every one of you has been working hard to face the challenges these changes present. This is so for our Parish ministries as well.

Not long after the lock down that included the closing of churches, we began live-streaming daily and Sunday Masses and moved to virtual Religious Education and Faith Formation Classes. Since churches were closed, funerals for loved ones, many for whom were victims of the virus, were limited to graveside services only. We did our best to comfort the families and to personalize the Rite of Burial.

Once we were able to reopen our Church, we worked with a core of parishioners to implement the protocols necessary to keep everyone in attendance as safe as possible. This enabled us to resume celebrating funerals, weddings, baptisms, Confirmations and First Communions, albeit with limited numbers present because of the need to social distance.

As one would expect, the numbers of Charlestown families facing food insecurity has increased during this time. Because of the ongoing generosity of our Parish and the Charlestown community, our emergency food pantry, Harvest on Vine, has been able to provide food for twice the number of families on a biweekly basis.

The pandemic caused a bit of a delay in the restoration and re-painting of the Church, but I am happy to say the work is completed and the results are beyond magnificent!

I recognize and am grateful to the many of you who have done your best to continue to support the Parish. Yet, our offertory income has dipped 17% (full budget details are available on our website) while our ongoing expenses have remained stable. And so I write to you, as I do every year at this time, to ask for your financial assistance by making a generous donation to our Grand Annual Collection. This is a once a year effort to balance our budget. Please know that your gift is needed and will be deeply appreciated.

I'm keenly aware that everyone's circumstances are unique and many have been impacted negatively in these times. If everyone does whatever is possible, I am certain our Parish will continue to thrive.

Yes, the pandemic has wreaked havoc in so many ways, yet the enduring Love of God for each of us seems more palpable now than ever and is so richly evident in the good will of so many during these trying times.

This month, I am completing 16 years as pastor, the longest time I have served in any ministry. What a blessing it is for me that these have been the best 16 years of my life! I am deeply grateful to God for these years as a priest here in Charlestown and to all of you for your ongoing, loving support.

In Christ's peace,

Fr. Ronan

Reflection - November 2020 – Joyce Rupp

Some people come into our lives and leave footprints on our hearts and we are never the same. (Flavia Weedn)

When November arrives, a surge of gratitude comes with it. I relish *the thin veil* of the Celtic tradition assuring us that the ancestors will approach close by on the eve of October 31st. The feast of *All Saints* on the following day also invites us to connect with people of the past whose presence has touched our lives. Whether recognized by the official Church or not, these remarkable "saints" influenced our lives and left their mark on our hearts.

As happens now with easy access to the Internet, the above quote of Flavia Weedn has some valuable pieces missing. Here is the more inspiring version: "Some people come into our lives and quickly go. Some people stay for awhile, and move our souls to dance. They awaken us to a new understanding with the passing whisper of their wisdom. Some people make the sky more beautiful to gaze upon. They stay in our lives for awhile, leave footprints on our hearts, and we are never, ever the same."

Since my twenties, I've been aware that who I am becoming evolves largely due to people who step onto my path long enough to encourage my growth in a particular way. In the past, some have been relatives. Others were strangers. Some visitors have names I no longer remember. And then there are people who come easily to mind. What have they imprinted on my heart? Here are a few of the

many gifts that provide purpose and direction for my life: generosity with time and presence, the activation of compassion, trust in my writing ability, access to inner resilience during difficult situations, relishing nature as a place to meet the Holy, and choosing to live more contemplatively.

What about you? For whom do you give thanks? Whose footprints have influenced your path of life? How have they done so? Whether young or old, if you allow yourself some quiet time to reflect on what inspires you to grow and share your best, I am confident you will recover memories of persons whose presence assisted your personal transformation.

Here is my Thanksgiving prayer this year:

Beloved Presence on my path of life,
thank you for the footprints left on my heart:
the soft and gentle ones that brought comfort,
the deep and lasting ones of enduring friendship,
the lightly passing ones conveying kindness,
the heavy ones causing necessary change,
and the impressionable footprints swept away by time.
Even though lost, forgotten, or not recognized,
these visitors have led me to live more fully
the innate goodness residing deep within me.
How grateful I am.

MASS SCHEDULE

**10:30 AM SUNDAY MASS ON
OUR WEBSITE OR
FACEBOOK LIVE**

SATURDAY 11/21

9:00 AM

**4:00 PM + ROSE BOYLE &
MARGARET BOYLE**

SUNDAY 11/22

8:00 AM + ELEANOR EMERY

10:30 AM + RENE MENARD

6:00 PM + BARRY SCADDING

**ROSARY SAID BEFORE
DAILY MASS AT 7:30**

MONDAY 11/23

8:00 AM AMY ENGLEHARDT

TUESDAY 11/24

8:00 AM

WEDNESDAY - 11/25

9:00 AM - PARISH PRAYER GUILD

THURSDAY 11/26 THANKSGIVING

9:00 AM OFFICE CLOSED

FRIDAY 11/27

9:00 AM OFFICE CLOSED

SATURDAY 11/28

9:00 AM

**4:00 PM + GERRY & IRENE
CALLAHAN**

SUNDAY 11/29

8:00 AM

10:30 AM PARISHIONER INTENTIONS

6:00 PM + BILL KING



*Resquiescat
in Pace*

*Michael
Dennis
Lacey*



**The Sanctuary
Lamp
is lit for:**

John "Buster" Woods

COLLECTION FOR RETIRED SISTERS - Today, November 22nd

Today's second collection is used to assist religious communities to provide for the retirement and health care needs of Sisters who have served in the Archdiocese. Please take this opportunity to say thank you to the Sisters who have served the Church of Boston so generously for so many years. Your contribution does make a difference. For more information, please contact the Delegate for Religious at 617-746-5637.



John Ramsey & Sara Squeglia

Banns Of Marriage

Parish Giving

Weekend of 11/15/2020

\$ 2,978

To the Weekly Collection

And

\$265 to
second collections

*Thank you for your
continued support*

Upcoming Collection

Christmas Flowers

ATTENDANCE 11/15

4:00 pm	33
8:00 am	16
10:30 am	72
6:00 pm	17
Total	138

Women's Group

The women's group is held every other Wednesday evening at 6:30 via Zoom!

If you are interested in joining the Women's Group, please contact Sr. Nancy at 617.242.4664 or via email at ncitro@stmaryscatherine.org.

