

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 29, 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.

MARANATHA



From the earliest of times, the Israelite community looked toward the arrival of the promised Messiah. The prayer for the speedy arrival of the Lord was often uttered in two Aramean words, *Maran'athah*. As time passed, the word continues to be used in song and verse with the meaning, "Come Lord Jesus".

On November 29, we begin the four-week Advent journey toward the celebration of the birth of Jesus. Yet this year the holy season of preparation and waiting seems dwarfed by the crippling effects of the pandemic. Everything that is normative for the Christmas season seems at risk from Christmas parties to visits to Santa. Advent liturgies, Masses, singing, prayer groups and more are all changed to virtual or canceled.

Through the ages, the longing for the Messiah-King was prompted by persecution and suffering. People looked for one to save, to deliver, to protect and care for them. The greater the suffering, the more intense the longing and hope.

So what about us in this Advent, 2020? Without question our community, nation and world are overwhelmed by this pandemic causing deep suffering among all people, especially the most vulnerable. The prayer, *Maranatha, Come Lord Jesus*, has never been more timely and needed.

What do you suppose it will look like as The Lord answers that prayer? I do not think it means you will find yourself humming *Jingle Bells* throughout the day or stringing extra sets of Christmas lights around your home or neighborhood.

Opening our minds and hearts to the Christ Child, the unfathomable mystery of God becoming human and choosing the most humble of circumstances for His birth, pulls us into the essence of the God Who is Love. Focusing on this truth and mystery not only opens us to receiving the Love of the Child Jesus but also impels us to imitate that love in our lives with one another.

Praying *Maranatha* is the first step toward an encounter with our Savior, our King and Redeemer. "Going" to Bethlehem and later to Nazareth and throughout

FIRST 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 3:15 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

Hispanic Ministry

Blanca Paz

Vice Chairs Pastoral Council

Brendan Sullivan

Vice Chair Finance Council

Nancy Higgins

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

Galilee toward Jerusalem will offer each of us everything we need to live fruitfully through this pandemic and beyond.

For me, Maranatha is not a one-time prayer offered as Advent begins. It is a mantra, a simple and profound invitation to the Lord Jesus to accompany me in my days. Join me as together we humbly pray through the crises of these times the prayer that gives birth to Hope. Maranatha.

Fr. Ronan

REMEMBERING OUR LOVED ONES WHO ARE WITH GOD

Weekend of December 19/20



At all of our Masses on the weekend of December 19 and 20, we will have a Ritual of Remembrance for all of our loved ones who have gone to God. Due to Covid, this year, the sand dollars will be placed on the tree on your behalf.

Please send your prayer intentions to info@stmaryscatherine.org. You may also call the Parish Center with your intention.

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)

*To learn more contact us at
617-242-4664 or check out our web site!
stmaryscatherine.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

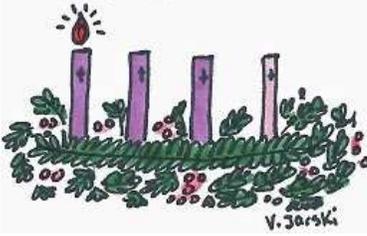
**The Church is handicap-accessible on Soley Street.
The Chapel is handicap-accessible on Winthrop Street.**

**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**

First Sunday of

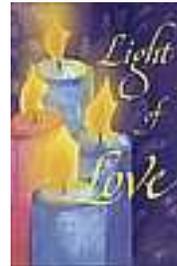
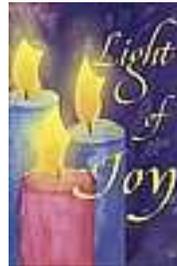
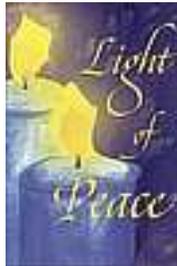
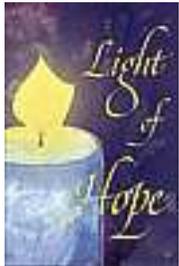
ADVENT



First Sunday of Advent

November 28/29, 2020

The season of Advent is upon us, and in today's Gospel Jesus delivers a simple message through the pen of Saint Mark: "Be watchful! Be alert!" Christian stewards understand what Jesus meant when he said, "It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with his assigned task." Good stewards realize that to each one a task is assigned by God. They have been set in a particular place and station in life, and have been gifted with unique relationships. How do we respond to the tasks or cultivate our relationships in a way that keeps us alert for the return of Christ?



Blessing of the Advent Wreath

It's time to bring out and bless the Advent wreath! The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of his second coming to judge the living and the dead.

When the blessing of the Advent Wreath is celebrated in the home, it is appropriate that it be blessed by a parent or another member of the family.

All make the sign of the cross as the leader says:

Our help is in the name of the Lord.
(R/.) Who made heaven and earth.

Then the Scripture, *Isaiah 9*: (lines 1-2 and 5-6) or *Isaiah 63* (lines 16-17 & 19) or *Isaiah 64* (lines 2-7) is read:

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
R/. Thanks be to God.

With hands joined, the leader says: Lord our God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ: He is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples, He is the wisdom that teaches and guides us, He is the Savior of every nation.

Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we light the candles of this wreath. May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation. May he come quickly and not delay. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R/. Amen.

USCCB

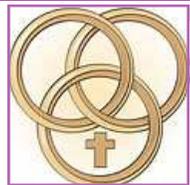
As we begin Advent, we light one candle in the midst of the darkness in our lives and in the world.

It symbolizes longing, our desire, our hope. Three "advents" or "comings". We want to be renewed in a sense that Jesus came to save us from our sin and death. We want to experience his coming to us now, in our everyday lives, to help us live our lives with meaning and purpose.

And we want to prepare for his coming to meet us at the end of our lives on this earth. So, we begin with our longing, our desire and our hope. When we wake up each day this week, we could light that candle, just by taking a few moments to focus. We could pause for a minute and light an inner candle. Who among us doesn't have time to pause for a moment? We could each find our own way to pray something like this:

"Lord, the light I choose to let into my life today is based on my trust in you. It is a weak flame, but I so much desire that it dispel a bit more darkness today. Let this candle be a reminder today of my hope in your coming." Amen.

Each morning this week, that momentary prayer might become more specific as it prepares us for the day we will face.





GIVING TREES

As is our tradition, your generosity provides Christmas aid to St. Mary Center for Women and Children, Charlestown Recovery House, Veterans Shelter, our parish's Conference of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society, and Sisters of Saint Joseph Prison Ministry.

Due to Covid restrictions, we will not have giving trees with tags on them this year. Instead, we ask those who are interested in donating to:

- **St. Mary Center for Woman & Children**—please give a gift card.
- **Charlestown Recovery House** - please give a gift card, T-Pass, or Dunkin Donuts gift card.
- **Veterans Shelter** — please give a gift card, T-Pass, or Dunkin Donuts gift card.
- **St. Vincent de Paul Society**— a monetary donation is requested for clients in our Parish who have many different needs, ie. rental assistance, beds, and a myriad of other requests. Checks should be made payable to **St. Vincent de Paul Society**.
- **Sisters of St. Joseph Prison Ministry** - Due to Dept. of Corrections security regulations, monetary donations are requested. 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. Checks should be made payable to **Sisters of St. Joseph Prison Ministry**

Donations may be placed in the collection baskets at the door. **Please indicate who the donation is for on the outside of the envelope.** Please submit your donations by December 20th for distribution on Monday, the 21st.



Esperar supone una vigilancia constante y responsable. Hay personas que esperan acontecimientos no del todo definidos en su vida. Esperan cosas de manera global a través de un golpe de suerte: ganarse la lotería... o esperan situaciones después de un esfuerzo considerable: seguro que voy a encontrar un buen trabajo...

La espera del cristiano es distinta. Nuestro esperar se mueve en el presente y en el futuro. Tenemos que esperar no desde nuestras expectativas sino desde el ritmo de Dios. Nuestra espera es gratuita, segura. Nuestra espera pasa por la confianza en Dios más que en nosotros mismos y en las cosas que nos rodean... En la vida de fe se pierden muchas valiosas energías, cuando somos nosotros, quienes prescindiendo de Dios, queremos marcar el ritmo y la marcha de nuestra espera...

La espera en Jesús es totalmente distinta: supone aceptar lo que ya sabemos, aceptar el encuentro amoroso con el amor. La espera del cristiano es sabiendo a quién esperamos...

El Señor no nos dice cuándo será su venida definitiva. Hay grupos que se han atrevido a afirmar en varias ocasiones el fin del mundo con fechas concretas. La palabra de Dios no nos dice nada al respecto, por eso debemos mantenernos alerta. Hay que estar alerta para descubrir el paso de Dios por nuestras vidas; alerta para descubrir su invitación y su conversión.

En el adviento se nos invita a tres compromisos concretos que la Palabra de hoy nos recuerda: estar atentos; velad; orad. Atentos para que nada nos disponga a pasar por alto la venida del Señor. Hay muchas cosas que nos pueden distraer de descubrir al Señor. Es relativamente fácil alejarnos de Dios e incluso ocultarnos (como en el paraíso) de Él, pero es muy difícil mantenernos en Dios porque la realidad del mundo no ayuda...

Velad, estar despiertos, saber descubrir en la noche de la vida las tinieblas de nuestro yo y ver la luz de Cristo que viene. El velar significa dejarse iluminar la vida por Jesús.

Y la última condición es el orar. Esperar atentos y velando en oración. No es esperar de cualquier manera, sino en una actitud orante, de hijo, de desvalido, de quien de verdad espera al Señor. Esperar orando. Hay personas que esperan desesperándose. Hay que esperar orando.

Cuando se ora, la espera no cansa sino que ensancha y transforma nuestro corazón. ¿Eres una persona que sabes esperar o te desesperas con facilidad? ¿Qué papel tiene la oración en tu vida? Como no sabemos cuándo vendrá el Señor tenemos que estar en vela siempre. Tenemos que estar en vela para que la vida verdadera no nos pase de largo.

El ser humano es el único ser de la naturaleza consciente de que espera; de ahí el ofrecimiento de Dios es siempre una llamada a la espera que no acaba.

Es bueno recordar en este comienzo del adviento las virtudes teologales y, desde ellas, esperar en atenta vigilancia y oración. Fe, esperanza y amor; la mayor de ellas es el amor. Tenemos que esperar desde el amor.

Quien no sabe esperar confiado en la palabra de Jesús, desespera.

El mundo de hoy no es propenso a aconsejar la espera. Todo intenta ser ultra rápido: comidas, limpieza, revelado de fotos, arreglos, etc.

El mundo de hoy ha sido pensado para tratar lo que el ser humano ha creado. La espera del evangelio, en cambio, atañe a los más íntimo del ser humano: una persona no cambia en un día, ni de manera ultra rápida. Una persona no puede cambiar automáticamente el corazón ni su interior, de ahí la necesidad de la espera en el Señor.



Advent Faith Groups on Zoom

You are invited to join an Advent Faith Sharing Group during the 4 weeks of Advent. All groups will be through Zoom. All are welcome and group information is listed below:

Women's Group

Wednesday evenings at 6:30

Facilitator: Sr. Nancy: ncitro@stmarystcatherine.org

Mixed Group

Alternate Tuesdays at 10am

Facilitator: Kathleen Devaney: devaney4076@comcast.net

Mixed Group

Tuesdays at 6:30pm

Facilitator: Sr. Nancy: ncitro@stmarystcatherine.org

Men's Group

Tuesday morning, 6:30 – 7:45 We'll begin on December 1 and conclude on the 22nd.

Facilitator: Fr. Ronan: jronan@stmarystcatherine.org

Please contact each facilitator to register so that the Zoom link may be provided to you.

Say No to ROE"

The state legislature has extended the session until January 5th, 2021. Please remind the members of the Joint Committee on Judiciary that you oppose the expansion of abortion in Massachusetts. Please call the Committee at 617-722-2396 and let them know you are **opposed** to H3320 and S1209 – the ROE legislation. Every telephone call helps!

Remember these bills would remove:

The requirement that young girls obtain consent before an abortion

The requirement that efforts be made to save a living baby who survives abortion

The requirement that late term abortions be performed in hospitals

The bills would allow abortion on demand for all nine months of pregnancy.

For more information about how the ROE legislation would expand abortion in Massachusetts visit www.macatholic.org.



We extend a warm welcome to all visitors and those who are new to our parish.

If you are new to Saint Mary - Saint Catherine of Siena Parish, please visit our website for events and resources. You may also register on line at: stmarystcatherine.org

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

VIGIL MASS ---Monday, December 7 at 6:30 PM

MASS ---Tuesday, December 8 at 8:00 AM

Masses will be in the Church



Christmas Flower Envelopes ...

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

MASS SCHEDULE

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

SATURDAY 11/28

9:00 AM

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

SUNDAY 11/29

8:00 AM

**10:30 AM + ELLEN MORTON
6:00 PM + BILL KING**

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

MONDAY 11/30

8:00 AM

TUESDAY 12/01

8:00 AM

WEDNESDAY - 12/02

8:00 AM - PARISH PRAYER GUILD

THURSDAY 12/03

8:00 AM

FRIDAY 12/04

8:00 AM

SATURDAY 12/05

9:00 AM

**4:00 PM + JOAN MATARAZZO &
THERESA ROCHE**

SUNDAY 12/06

8:00 AM + EVELYN & JIMMY ROY

10:30 AM + THOMAS REGAN

6:00 PM



Weekend of 11/22/2020

\$ 2,262.10
To the Weekly Collection
And
\$450 to
second collections

***Thank you for your
continued support***



**II John Ramsey & Sara Squeglia
Banns Of Marriage**



**The Sanctuary
Lamp
is lit for:**

Phillip & Teresa Pollack

Upcoming Collection

Christmas Flowers
Clergy Benefit

ATTENDANCE 11/22

4:00 pm	35
8:00 am	18
10:30 am	67
6:00 pm	29

Total 149

**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.***

The Light is ON for You.
Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation

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

By calling the Parish Office at
617-242-4664



**Celebrating
the
Sacrament
of
Baptism**

is

always a joyful event in our Parish. It's such a privilege to facilitate this momentous event in the lives of families and in particular, the life of the child. To learn more, please contact Sr. Nancy at

617-242-4664 or email:
ncitro @stmaryscatherine.org.