



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.

December 6, 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.

We Are All 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 2020 is unlike any other we have known. We are all anxiously waiting to get to the other side of the pandemic. Yet Advent waiting is not meant to be 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.

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



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Mass Schedule

Saturday – St. Mary Church

9:00 a.m.

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

Waiting in the Advent time can be like going to the gym to exercise; little by little one grows in strength and stamina. Yet this kind of waiting is best when complimented 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.

Many in these days seek to connect with everything from Harvest on Vine to Globe Santa to Catholic Relief Services and Catholic Charities. These and 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 while going somewhere 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... ah, not just an ordinary inconvenience, but rather a special time that contains immeasurable Grace for those who would choose to wait with some quiet, prayer and reflection on the big picture. This waiting can help us grow in greater solidarity with one another, anticipating the immeasurable gift from Bethlehem.

Fr. Ronan



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



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

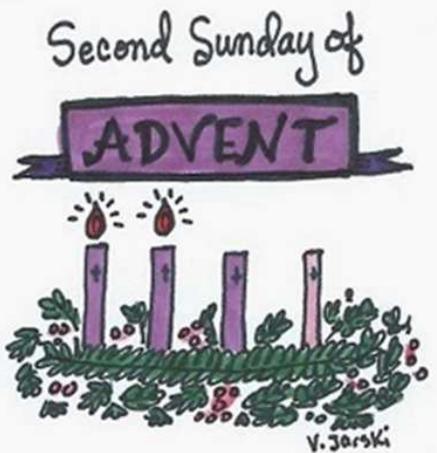
Saint Catherine of Siena Chapel

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)



Second Sunday of Advent Weekend of December 5/6, 2020

Today's second reading is about Christ's coming again, "The day of the Lord," Peter calls it, but that day isn't December 25th. It's that other day, that second-coming day about which Peter is concerned. He waits with great hope and anticipation for God to remake the earth into a place of perfect justice and peace. And he sets some demanding goals for the Christian community as it awaits that final day of accounting and reconciliation: strive to be at peace, without spot or blemish. Christian stewards work for peace. As we await the coming of Christmas, what can we do to promote peace in our homes, workplaces, community and world?



Cientos de personajes llenan las páginas de la Biblia, personajes que cumplen una misión y desaparecen para siempre. El Adviento tiene su personaje, Juan Bautista, el telonero de Jesús. Juan Bautista, predicador del desierto, anuncia el comienzo del evangelio de Jesucristo, le prepara el camino y desaparece. Juan Bautista tiene que disminuir, Jesús tiene que crecer. Sólo Jesús y su Buena Noticia permanecen para siempre. La conversión, sermón predicado miles de veces por todos los predicadores del mundo, sería el título del primer sermón de Juan Bautista en el desierto, escenario nada eclesial para un predicador.

Un profesor de universidad fue a visitar a un gurú, un maestro de sabiduría oriental y le dijo: "Maestro, enséñame lo que tengo que saber para ser feliz. He estudiado las Escrituras, he escuchado a los grandes maestros, pero aún no he encontrado la respuesta".

El Maestro le invitó a té, llenó la taza y siguió echando té que se iba derramando por la mesa y el suelo. El profesor sorprendido le dijo: "La taza está llena. Pare. Ya no cabe más". El Maestro le explicó: "Tú, como esta taza estás lleno de tus opiniones y de tus especulaciones. ¿Cómo puedo enseñarte el camino si antes no vacías tu taza?

¿Cómo puedo llenarme del evangelio de Jesucristo y cómo puedo acogerlo si yo soy el centro, si yo lo lleno todo?

¿Podemos vaciarnos de nuestros prejuicios, de nuestras ideas fijas, de nuestros hábitos, de nuestra educación de nuestro orgullo, del siempre se hizo así, de la contaminación mediática ambiental, de ese bagaje acumulado a lo largo de los años?

Mi experiencia personal y mi observación de las personas que me rodean es que nadie vacía su taza. Nada nos cambia. La conversión que predica Juan Bautista, el cambio que me pide es más profundo que desaprender catecismos y creencias viejas, es más que decir no a un pasado incambiante, es decir sí al evangelio de Jesucristo, comienzo de todo cambio, no es hacer más cosas para justificar mi existencia, es hacer menos, es tener una actitud nueva y centrada en lo importante, no lo interesante.

Marcos comienza el evangelio de una manera sencilla, no nos habla de pastores ni de ángeles ni de una algarabía celestial. Desde el inhóspito desierto grita una sola palabra: PREPARAD un camino al que viene, al que bautiza con Espíritu Santo, preparad un camino que lleve al corazón, la geografía más escarpada de la tierra. La conversión es fruto de una profunda y sincera relación con Dios. ¿Podemos cambiar? Por supuesto, porque hacer una opción verdadera y auténtica por Jesucristo nos hace relativizar toda la calderilla de las religiones, las cosas de la ciudad, sus doctrinas, sus ruidos y sus modas nos lleva al desierto, lugar donde Dios nos habla y nos llena de savia nueva.

El desierto es el lugar donde entro en relación con Dios, el guía del camino. Cada uno de nosotros tenemos que descubrir nuestro desierto donde Dios sale a nuestro encuentro y nos habla al corazón, nos consuela y nos trae del exilio a la tierra prometida, a su reino.

GRAND ANNUAL UPDATE



Our Parish faces the usual costs of any small business plus the maintenance of very old and beautiful buildings. Each year at this time, we ask parishioners for assistance to balance our budget with a contribution to the Grand Annual Collection. Your response over the years has always been generous and helps to meet our needs. Once again, we ask every family to do your best to respond.

Thank you to all of you who have already contributed to the Grand Annual. To date, contributions total \$43,900.

For those who have yet to contribute, please consider a gift so that we can yield a balanced budget.

There are different ways for you to make contributions!

- Please go to our web site (stmaryscatherine.org) and click "Donate" in the footer of our webpage, to be directed to a paypal button.
- Did you know you can donate via **online banking**? You can list St. Mary-St. Catherine of Siena Parish as a *payee* with our address (46 Winthrop Street, Charlestown MA 02129) and phone number (617-242-4664).

Corporate Matching

Some companies such as John Hancock, Fidelity, and many others, have "Charitable Gift" funds that will match, or partially match gifts donated to non profit organizations, which include Churches. Some parishioners are using this to match their **Grand Annual Donation**. If your company will match your contributions to the Parish, please consider contacting them for more information.

If you have questions, please contact James Santosuosso at jsantosuosso@stmaryscatherine.org or (617) 242-4664.

Thank you for all your support and active participation. We are humbled and deeply grateful!



Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe December 12 On December 9, 1531 a poor Mexican Indian, Juan Diego, was walking by a hill near his village when he heard beautiful music. Suddenly there appeared a radiant cloud and within it a young Indian maiden dressed as an Aztec princess. The young maiden spoke to the 57-year-old widower in his native language and directed him to visit the Archbishop of Mexico with a request that a chapel be built where she stood. The archbishop demanded a sign of authenticity, and the maiden instructed Juan Diego to gather flowers from the top of the hill where they met. Even though December was too late in the growing season for flowers to bloom, Juan Diego was surprised to find Castilian roses, not native to Mexico. On December 12, Juan Diego opened his cloak before the archbishop, the roses fell to the floor, and in their place the image of the young virgin was miraculously imprinted on the fabric. News spread quickly, and shortly thereafter an estimated nine million Indians converted to Catholicism. Our Lady's appearance to a poor, humble man is a compelling reminder that God's loving embrace is all-inclusive; and that our Church's preferential option for the poor is a Gospel imperative.

GIVING TREES

As is our tradition, your generosity provides Christmas aid to the organizations listed below. 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,. 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. Thank you.



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.

Religious Education News and Updates: News and Updates from Katy:

Hello Everyone - I hope you had a nice Thanksgiving! Today marks the First Sunday of Advent - the beginning of the Liturgical Year. Ask your child what color vestment did Father Ronan wear today? We have completed our second month of Zoom calls and class activities. Time is flying by!

Below is a synopsis of what the students learned on their calls this month, and general info to complete for the month before their next meeting.

Kindergarten: The K class learned about Saints - our Heavenly Friends. At home students completed activities about how the Saints teach us to Be Kind, Forgive and Tell about the Love of God.

First Grade: The First Grade class focused on the life of Jesus (their second month focusing on part of the Trinity - last month was God the Father, this month God the Son.) The students watched a video about following Jesus, and at home completed activities about Jesus' family and how Jesus healed others.

Second Grade: The Second graders wrapped up the review unit. By now they all know the Sign of the Cross, the Our Father, the Hail Mary, the five church seasons and the seven sacraments. (Grade 2 parents please see separate email from me about uploading a video assessment of your child.)

Third Grade: The Third grade class learned the 4 Marks of the Church. They continued reviewing these at home learning the Nicene Creed. They also reviewed the Liturgical Seasons.

Fourth/Fifth/Sixth Grade: Our Grade 4+ class continues to read the "Who Was Jesus?" book. This past week we had a riveting game of Kahoot and lots of discussion about the world Jesus grew up in and some of his famous stories.

Confirmation 1: The 9th graders began the Alpha Youth Series video classes. Class 1 is titled "Life: Is this It?" Students need to complete the November lesson at home, Decision Point Life is Choices. Slides were emailed and are posted to the Google Classroom.

Confirmation 2: 10th graders continue with the Ascension Press Chosen curriculum. Lesson 3 was completed in a class Zoom call, "What is God's Story?" and students will complete lesson 4 at home, "How do I know God is Real?" Slides were emailed and are posted to the Google Classroom.

Upcoming Zoom Calls:

Sunday 12/6 at 9am - Family Formation Call Topic is ADVENT

You will need the Advent wreath material from your learning kits. Also in your kit is an Advent calendar if you would like to look at that starting Dec 1. Parents should already have The Zoom link. If any questions, please email Katy or call 617-242-4664.

MASS SCHEDULE

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

SATURDAY 12/05

9:00 AM

**4:00 PM + JANE MATARAZZO +
THERESA ROCHE**

SUNDAY 12/06

8:00 AM EVELYN & JIMMY ROY

10:30 AM + THOMAS REGAN

6:00 PM

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

MONDAY 12/07

8:00 AM

TUESDAY 12/08

8:00 AM

WEDNESDAY - 12/09

8:00 AM - PARISH PRAYER GUILD

THURSDAY 12/10

8:00 AM

FRIDAY 12/11

8:00 AM

SATURDAY 12/12

9:00 AM + SARAH FARMER

4:00 PM + GERALD A. WALL

SUNDAY 12/13

8:00 AM + JANE GREEN

10:30 AM + CHRISTINA RYAN

6:00 PM + JOAN & DAN BLAKE SR



III John Ramsey & Sara Squeglia

Banns Of Marriage

**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.***



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)

Upcoming Collection

Christmas Flowers
Clergy Benefit (December 25)



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. Thank you.

Parish Giving

Weekend of 11/29/2020

\$ 5,243.77
To the Weekly Collection
And
\$505 to
second collections

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

ATTENDANCE 11/29

| | |
|----------|----|
| 4:00 pm | 41 |
| 8:00 am | 34 |
| 10:30 am | 64 |
| 6:00 pm | 28 |

Total 167