



# St. Mary-St. Catherine Of Siena

## Roman Catholic Parish

Charlestown, Massachusetts ▪ Archdiocese of Boston

[stmarystcatherine.org](http://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 27, 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.

## PICTURE PERFECT



All over my desk are some of the most fantastic pictures! The entire space looks like an advertisement for Kodak! For just like you, I have received tons of pictures from family and friends of their children, themselves, their favorite sights while on vacation and often enough, their pets. I love them. And one of the issues I face every year is: what should I do with all these pictures?

I mean, after a week or two I have to move them aside to simply see the top of the desk and get on with the new year. But how does one throw out a picture of a bunch of smiling, giggling, and really cute kids? Quickly enough, I think I will simply store them away and figure it out later. Problem is, I did the same last year and the year before! So I will just find a new spot to store them, I guess.

In reality, the story is not the pictures. The story is what the pictures represent. They represent the enormous love and hope of hundreds of families. They are the story of growth, struggle, sacrifice, hard work, and lots and lots of love. We are talking about family and everything begins and ends, in God's marvelous plan, with family.

We know that a picture may be worth a thousand words and yet the picture does not tell the whole story. In my blessed role in Charlestown and in other places, it has been my unique privilege to become a part of many families. I have witnessed the birth of families in marriage; the growing of families in births, adoptions, and baptisms; the maturing of families in first communions and confirmations; and the radical changes in families in the deaths of loved ones.

I have journeyed with families in trouble, with loved ones gravely ill, in prison, and far away. One of the most painful for all involved is when the

## FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

## 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 [stmarystcatherine.org/sacraments/](http://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

family is broken apart by separation and divorce, even when that is the best resolution to a failed marriage. We use the word freely and often - family. It is a really sacred word and never to be taken lightly.

A human family can only come about through love. And authentic love is always a gift from God—a sharing of God's very self with a man and a woman called to unite in marriage and form a family. Family demands our reverence and deep respect. To guard, protect, and cherish the family is a responsibility of all of us as well as to pray for the family and support all families, especially those in trouble.

Anything we do, no matter how small that strengthens our families is important and of value. For families are fragile. They are made up of persons like you and me who need to forgive, help out, and be patient with one another. Often, it is a messy and challenging journey. And as we know, in our time, families are found in various forms, far from the traditional. However without exception, every family is precious in God's eyes and merits our respect and protection.

This weekend we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family and we marvel at the fact that the Son of God, Jesus, was born into a human family with Mary and Joseph. They formed a simple family with grandparents and ancestors. And soon after the Child's birth, they became an immigrant family, fleeing for the safety of the Child to a foreign land. Because of the gift of this Child and all He is, we have the freedom to embrace our human family in love, compassion, and understanding. It is one of our greatest gifts of all and I see it so clearly as I gaze on these beautiful pictures all over my desk.

*Fr. Ronan*



### 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  
[stmarystcatherine.org](http://stmarystcatherine.org)  
and  
[facebook.com/  
stmarystcatherine](https://facebook.com/stmarystcatherine)



**January 1, 2021**

The encounter between God and Moses in today's first reading is awe-inspiring. God bestows three blessings upon Moses and directs him to extend those blessings to others: The Lord blesses you and keeps you. The Lord lets his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord looks upon you kindly and gives you peace. Good stewards realize these blessings are showered upon them in a unique and special way each time they receive the Eucharist, and exercising good stewardship of the Lord's blessings in this sacrament begins by receiving these gifts with profound gratitude. Perhaps it would be a good idea this week to memorize these marvelous blessings and repeat them to yourself frequently. Make them part of your morning prayer each day.

**Masses in the Church:**

**December 31, 6:00 pm**

**January 1, 9:00 am**

The Solemnity of Mary is also a day of prayer for world peace.



**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.**



### **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](mailto:ncitro@stmaryscatherine.org).



### **IGNATION SPIRITUALITY PROJECT**

#### **THE LONGEST NIGHT HOMELESS MEMORIAL SERVICE**

This Monday, December 21 at 1:30pm, there will be a Homeless Memorial Service for those we lost on the streets and in the shelters in 2020. Normally, it is held at the Church on the Hill but will be outdoors this year (rain or shine) at the Brewer Fountain on the Boston Common.

For those who cannot attend, please consider pausing a moment on Monday at 1:30pm for remembrance and prayer.

**"At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us." Albert Schweitzer**



The World Day of Peace (January 1) is a feast day of the Catholic Church dedicated to peace. It was introduced in 1967 and inspired by the encyclicals

*Pacem in Terris* and *Populorum Progressio* of John XXIII and Paul VI. The World Day of Prayer for Peace is an opportunity to reflect on and be respectful to the environment, which is God's creation.

**"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God" (Mt 5:9)**

### **CLERGY HEALTH AND RETIREMENT TRUST THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION TO THE CLERGY BENEFIT TRUST**

Thanks to all who contributed to the Christmas collection for our priests. If you did not have the opportunity to give but you'd like to make a gift, please visit [clergytrust.org](http://clergytrust.org) or pick up an envelope in the back of the Church. To learn more about the Trust and stay up to date on what's going on with our priests, find the Trust on Facebook by searching "@ClergyTrust." Thank you for your prayers and generous support.

### **PRAY TO PROTECT HUMAN LIFE! JANUARY 21-29, 2021**

9 Days for Life is a novena for the protection of human life. Each day's intention is accompanied by a short reflection and suggested actions to help build a culture of life.

The Novena is from

**Thursday, January 21 – Friday, January 29, 2021**

**And can be accessed at**

**[www.9daysforlife.com](http://www.9daysforlife.com)**

**Or [prolife@usscb.org](mailto:prolife@usscb.org)**



## Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

December 26/27, 2020

When Jesus is presented in the Temple, our Blessed Mother formally offers him to God's service without reservation. It is a service that Simeon prophetically foretells: a service to God that will turn the old laws and cultural norms upside down. As we await the dawn of a new year, are we destined to hold on to old habits and customs tightly or like Jesus, are we willing to serve the Lord and proclaim the Gospel in new and creative ways?

### *The Year of St. Joseph*

*With the Apostolic Letter "Patris corde" ("With a Father's Heart"), Pope Francis recalls the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father has proclaimed a "Year of Saint Joseph" from today, 8 December 2020, to 8 December 2021.*

*Pope Francis said that one of the reasons in deciding that this would be the year of St. Joseph is "to highlight St. Joseph's role as a father who served his family with charity and humility, adding, "Our world today needs fathers."*

*He also stated "Each of us can discover in Joseph -- the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence -- an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble," the pope wrote*



### PRAYER TO THE HOLY FAMILY

JESUS, Son of God and Son of Mary, bless our family. Graciously inspire in us the unity, peace, and mutual love that you found in your own family in the little town of Nazareth.

MARY, Mother of Jesus and Our Mother, nourish our family with your faith and your love. Keep us close to your Son, Jesus, in all our sorrows and joys.

JOSEPH, Foster-father of Jesus, guardian and spouse of Mary, keep our family safe from harm. Help us in all times of discouragement or anxiety.

HOLY FAMILY OF NAZARETH, make our family one with you. Help us to be instruments of peace. Grant that love, strengthened by grace, may prove mightier than all the weaknesses and trials through which our families sometimes pass. May we always have God at the center of our hearts and homes until we are all one family, happy and at peace in our true home with you. Amen.



Give yourself a gift this Christmas Season by receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Some folks are reticent to receive this sacrament because they haven't done so in such a long time and don't recall the prayers or even how to participate in the sacrament. Please do not let this be a barrier. The priest will guide you and help you to feel welcomed.

Every Saturday, the **Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated starting at 3:15 PM before the 4:00 PM Mass.**

Or ... call the Parish Center at 617.242.4664 to schedule an appointment. A priest will get back to you and schedule a time that works for you.

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

## SAGRADA FAMILIA



Hoy, Primer Domingo después del Nacimiento de Dios-hecho-Hombre, celebramos la Fiesta de la Sagrada Familia. Y en el Evangelio de hoy vemos a esta Familia en un trance muy difícil. La narración simplificada de la Huída a Egipto tal vez nos impide captar en toda su dimensión lo que debe haber sido esta circunstancia para la Santísima Virgen y San José.

Nos dice el Evangelio (Mt. 2, 13-23) que, luego de la visita de los Reyes Magos, "el Ángel del Señor se le apareció en sueños a José y le dijo: Levántate, toma al Niño y a la Madre, y huye a Egipto. Quédate allá hasta que yo te avise, porque Herodes va a buscar al Niño para matarlo". ¡Qué fe y qué

obediencia la de San José! ¡Ni lo piensa! "Esa misma noche", nos dice el Evangelio, hizo lo que el Ángel le había indicado. No esperó. No titubeó. No buscó excusas. Sencillamente interrumpió el sueño, se levantó, y tomaron José y María camino hacia Egipto con el Niño, en obediencia al mandato del Señor.

Comienzan, entonces, nuevos imprevistos y dificultades para la Sagrada Familia. Esta orden del Señor significaba cruzar el peligroso desierto para escapar a un país extraño y lejano. Cruzar el desierto significaba estar expuestos a sed, hambre, riesgos, cansancio, etc. Irse a Egipto significaba un exilio en tierra extranjera. Pero tanto la Virgen como San José aceptaban con una fe indubitable los planes de Dios para con ellos. Así como partieron para Belén justo antes de María dar a luz, sin ningún temor, así como aceptaron tener como aposento para ellos y para el "Rey de Reyes", la humildísima Cueva de Belén, así aceptan marcharse de allí a una tierra desconocida y lejana, sin saber siquiera por cuánto tiempo sería ese exilio.

La Segunda Lectura de la Carta de San Pablo a los Colosenses (Col. 3, 12-21) así como la Primera tomada del Libro del Eclesiástico (Eclo. 3, 3-7. 14-17), nos dan pautas de comportamiento en medio de la familia.

Sin embargo esas formas de comportarse en familia que nos presentan estas Lecturas, no son posibles si no vivimos en una continua búsqueda de la Voluntad de Dios. Porque ... ¿cómo podemos ser como nos dice San Pablo: "compasivos, magnánimos, humildes, afables y pacientes, soportándonos mutuamente y perdonándonos" si no vivimos en Dios? ¿Cómo podemos llegar "a la perfecta unión" de que nos habla San Pablo, si no dejamos que sea Dios Quien nos una?

Veamos, entonces, cómo puede unirnos Dios en esa "perfecta unión". Dios puede unirnos así si buscamos y hacemos su Voluntad, si le amamos a Él sobre todas las cosas y dejamos que sea Él Quien ame a través nuestro. Así nuestro amor no será un amor egoísta, sino que será el Amor de Dios en nosotros. Y ese Amor de Dios en nosotros poco a poco nos va llevando a esa unión perfecta de la cual nos habla San Pablo en la Segunda Lectura.

Sin embargo esto no es posible si nosotros -que pertenecemos a una familia, bien como esposos, bien como hijos, bien como hermanos- no vivimos atentos a cumplir la Voluntad de Dios. Hacer la Voluntad de Dios es dejar que Él nos vaya transformando y nos vaya haciendo compasivos, magnánimos, humildes, afables, pacientes, capaces de perdonar y de apoyarnos mutuamente. Entregados cada uno a la Voluntad de Dios podremos amar con ese amor que une, ese amor que une en forma perfecta, porque es el Amor de Dios viviendo en cada uno de nosotros y en medio de cada familia.

Eso lo comprendió a cabalidad la Sagrada Familia, el modelo de familia que Dios nos dejó. Ellos obedecían ciegamente la Voluntad del Padre. Ellos respondían con prontitud a la llamada del Señor. Ellos creían con fe ciega en los planes del Señor para con ellos, por muy inconvenientes que parecieran. La Sagrada Familia tuvo sus momentos muy difíciles. Este de la Huída a Egipto no fue el único, ni el peor. Pero todo lo entregaban al Padre y se ponían en manos de Él, con una confianza absoluta en su Voluntad.

Los momentos difíciles vendrán más tarde o más temprano, más frecuentes o menos frecuentes, para cada familia o para cada uno en particular. Pero, confiando en la Voluntad Divina, todo se hace posible y todo se hace más fácil, porque todo está en manos del que nos guía. Y Ese que nos guía es el mismo que guió a la Sagrada Familia por el desierto hacia Egipto, la acompañó durante el duro exilio allí y luego la guió de vuelta a Nazaret. Ese es Dios Padre, que desea sólo nuestro bien. Y nuestro bien personal y nuestro bien familiar están en el cumplimiento de su Divina Voluntad.

### **DON'T FORGET THE POOR**

The work of the **St. Vincent de Paul Society** continues, in our parish. The Society helps a number of individuals and families in Charlestown. Please remember the good work with a gift to the Poor boxes in the church.

### **A New Year's Prayer**

**And I said to the man who stood at the Gate of the New Year:  
"Give me a light, that I may tread safely into the unknown!"**

**And he replied: "Go out into the darkness and put your Hand  
into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light  
and safer than a known way." So, I went forth, and finding  
the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night...**

**- Minnie Louise Haskins**

## MASS SCHEDULE

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

**SATURDAY 12/26**

**9:00 AM**

**4:00 PM + KATHLEEN & THOMAS  
BRODERICK**

**SUNDAY 12/27**

**8:00 AM**

**10:30 AM**

**6:00 PM + MARY & PETER PAPPAS  
& BARBARA COYMAN**

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

**MONDAY 12/28**

**8:00 AM**

**TUESDAY 12/29**

**8:00 AM**

**WEDNESDAY - 12/30**

**8:00 AM JACQUELINE ROBINSON**

**THURSDAY 12/31**

**8:00 AM**

**VIGIL FOR SOLEMNITY OF MARY**

**6:30 PM**

**FRIDAY 01/01**

**OFFICE CLOSED**

**SOLEMNITY OF MARY**

**9:00 AM**

**SATURDAY 01/02**

**9:00 AM**

**4:00 PM + KATHELEEN & THOMAS  
BRODERICK**

**SUNDAY 01/03**

**8:00 AM**

**10:30 AM + ELIZABETH & JOSEPH  
PELSOI**

**6:00 PM**



**The  
Sanctuary Lamp  
is lit for:**

***Guy Maccarone***



May the Holy Family be a model for our families, so that parents and children may support each other mutually in adherence to the Gospel, the basis of the holiness of the family.

—Pope Francis, December 29, 2019



## **LOOKING AHEAD**

January 1 – New Year's Day

January 1 – World Day of Peace

January 1 – \*Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

January 3 – The Epiphany of the Lord

January 10 – The Baptism of the Lord

January 18- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 18-24 – Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

January 21-29 – 9 Days for Life

January 22 – Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

January 24- Collection for the Church in Latin America

January 31 – Catholic Schools Week Begins

## **Tax Season Coming Up!**

Would you like a statement of your Parish contributions? Please email Dianne at [dludy@stmaryscatherine.org](mailto:dludy@stmaryscatherine.org) or call (617) 242-4664. Please include your full name and address with your request. Statements may take 3-5 business days to process.



**CHRISTMAS FLOWER  
DONATIONS**

***Remembering Loved Ones***

***Mitzy Moles***

***Mary McGowan***

***Margaret "Peg" Murphy***

***Millie & Sherm Beeler***

***Elinor & James Roden***

***William Doucette***

***Ellen O'Keefe***

***Stella Valdez***

***Rick Valdez***

***Welcome***

***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 Par-  
ish, please visit our website for  
events and resources. You  
may also register on line at:  
[stmaryscatherine.org](http://stmaryscatherine.org)***

## **WINTER 20-21 ALERT**

Dear Friends, in the event of inclement weather that necessitates the closing of the church, we will post the closing on Channel 5, WCVB-TV and Channel 7 WHDH and 56 WLVI

**Stay warm and safe!**



**Transformed in Love** is the Archdiocese of Boston's marriage preparation program. The Paulist Center is one of the sites which offers this program on a regular basis. Upcoming dates are: Feb. 5 & 6; March 19 & 20; May 7 & 8; June 18 & 19. For more information and registration, contact the Paulist Center at 617-742-4460.