

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.

January 10, 2021

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.

Into the Ordinary



This morning as I hurried to the church to prepare for morning Mass, I was thinking about the readings while at the same time aware that the Church turns a page today. For many weeks now we have

been in two very special seasons, Advent and Christmas. The beauty and richness of these times, the eloquence and depth of the readings from Sacred Scripture combined with the loveliness of the decorations and joyful spirit of Christmas are concluded. This week we return to ORDINARY TIME in the liturgical calendar of the Church.

Interesting word, “ordinary”; what does it really mean? It may be one of those words that is defined more by what it is NOT than by what it is. In that sense “ordinary” is all of the time that is not identified as extra-ordinary. And yet so much of life is all about the “ordinary”.

At a funeral I celebrated recently, a young man gave a eulogy for a deceased member of his family. He began by offering this observation: the most important item found on a tombstone is none other than the tiny dash – found between the dates of one's birth and death. For that dash is that person's life. You might say the DASH is the ordinary. Come to think about it, it could be said that the life of Jesus is marked by two “extraordinary” events: His birth in Bethlehem and His death on the Cross in Jerusalem. Yet the dash, “the ordinary” times of His life, really tell the story of why God's Son came to earth; the teaching, healing, compassion, water-walking, bread-multiplying, dead-raising and so much more.

I meet with many young couples preparing for their marriage. Sometime early on in our conversations I lift up the well known saying: “*A wedding is a day, a marriage is a lifetime*”. Point being, some couples get so entrenched in the planning of the wedding they forget to really live fully each day – again the ordinary.

God is found everywhere, of this I am certain. Yet it is hard to find God if

NEWS FROM FATHER RONAN

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/ 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)

one is not living in the present time, moment, and reality of one's life. I am very fond of these lines from Thomas Merton: *God cannot be found by weighing the present against the future or the past, but only by sinking into the heart of the present as it is*" (Entering the Silence, 460).

And so it is, God is found most intimately in the ordinary moments of each day – making "Ordinary Time" a very special time!

Fr. Ronan

GRAND ANNUAL UPDATE

Thank you to all of you who have already contributed to the Grand Annual. To date, contributions total **\$86,055**.

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

- Please go to our web site (stmarystcatherine.org) and click "Donate" in the footer of our webpage, to be directed to a Paypal button.
- Donate through 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).
- Checks can be placed in the collection basket, or mailed to The Parish Center (address above).

If you have questions, please contact James Santosuosso at jsantosuosso@stmarystcatherine.org or (617) 242-4664. Thank you for all your support and active participation. We are humbled and deeply grateful!



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**



Celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism

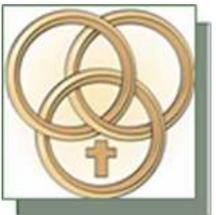
is always a joyful event in our Parish. It's such a privilege to facilitate this momentous event in the lives of families and in particular, the life of the child. To learn more, please contact Sr. Nancy at

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

Today, we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord! The origin and foundation of Christian Baptism is Jesus. Before starting his public ministry, Jesus submitted himself to the baptism given by John the Baptist. The waters did not purify him; he cleansed the waters. "He comes to sanctify the Jordan for our sake . . . to begin a new creation through the Spirit and water" (St. Gregory Nazianzen, Liturgy of the Hours, I, 634). Jesus' immersion in the water is a sign for all human beings of the need to die to themselves to do God's will. Jesus did not need to be baptized because he was totally faithful to the will of his Father and free from sin. However, he wanted to show his solidarity with human beings in order to reconcile them to the Father. By commanding his disciples to baptize all nations, he established the means by which people would die to sin—Original and actual—and begin to live a new life with God.

USCCB

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.



News from Fr. Ronan

There are gifts and challenges to this aging process and many of you know something about that! Over the years, I have been blessed with an unhappy back. I have had three spine surgeries and been going along fairly well for the past couple of years and that began to change several months ago.

Now, following up on various interventions of nerve blocks, physical therapy, and medications, I cannot avoid another spine surgery. This one ought not to be as invasive as previous ones, so I remain hopeful for a speedy recovery. The surgery is set for Tuesday, January 5 and I will likely be off the bench for the rest of January.

As you know, the Parish is in very good hands with Sister Nancy as Pastoral Associate and James Santosuosso as Business Manager. Tom MacDonald as Director of Parish Social Ministry along with Dianne Ludy in the office and Oscar Calderon in maintenance and cleaning – all together make a superb team. Katy Fleming has developed an amazing program – all virtual – for children and families in Religious Education.

Our Parish is blessed to have three wonderful priests in residence as they do their graduate studies at Boston College. Father Ken Chemizie, OCD, Father Anthony Nweke, C.S.Sp. and Father Britto Dhinakaran are very gifted men, each of them studying for their doctorates in various fields of Theology. My brother priests will step in as needed in my absence.

Being a parish priest, for me, means my priesthood is intimately connected to my parish – it is like a hyphenated word! When I am not physically at the Parish, I continue as a parish-priest – which is to say all of the parish are in my thoughts and prayers each day. In a few weeks, I look forward to being back in beautiful Saint Mary's Church and walking the streets of The Town with Lily.

In the meantime, please know of my ongoing gratitude for your loving and prayerful support through the years and in this New Year too. - Fr. Ronan

NB: Fr. Ronan's surgery went well and is now in a period of recuperation. Thank you for your continued prayers.



ADULT CONFIRMATION CLASSES PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD

Full adult membership in the Roman Catholic Church is achieved with the reception of the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation. Most Catholics born into our faith receive Baptism as infants and Eucharist in the second grade. Confirmation is often received in the tenth grade. Due to circumstances of all kinds, a significant number of adults have never received the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Maybe... It's Time:

To deepen your relationship with God who loves and cares about you.

To re-engage your world again as a Catholic more informed about your faith and its impact in your life.

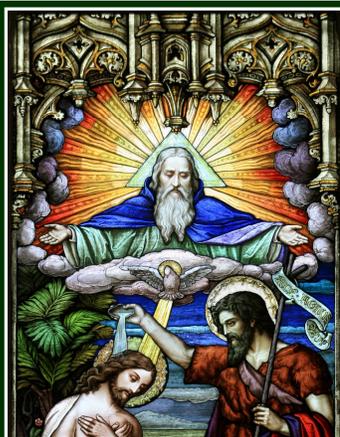
To re-new yourself and others through the unique power of the Holy Spirit who guides us in Love and Truth.

Candidates 18 years of age or older will attend seven 90-minute classes. Please contact Sr. Nancy Citro, SND at

617-242-4664 or

ncitro@stmaryscatherine.org for additional details and to register for the program.





Feast of the Baptism of the Lord January 9/10, 2021

On this first weekend after the Feast of the Epiphany, the Gospel reading reminds us of Jesus' baptism. It gives meaning to our own baptism into Christ Jesus. Jesus' baptism is a reminder that he is not only our Lord but also our brother. He was baptized, just as we are. He shares in our humanity. Good stewards recognize that their baptisms call them to conform their daily lives to Jesus' teachings, and to live their lives as Jesus did. Through their baptism, they have been given the necessary gifts to share with others the new creation that Christ brings. The stewardship question is whether we can recognize our own baptismal gifts, and like Jesus, use those gifts to bring the hope of Christ to the lives of others.

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

Or prolife@usscb.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!

Embracing a Steward's Mindset for the New Year 2021

During these uncertain times, it is especially important for Christian stewards to have a mindset that the greeting "Happy New Year" really should mean: "I hope and pray for you a joyous year ahead in proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ!" If we are to interpret this cheery salutation in that way, should we not consider similar greetings throughout the year? "Happy New Day!" In the lyrics of the popular gospel song "Oh, Happy Day!" we are reminded that Jesus taught us "... how to live rejoicing every day." Be grateful for each of God's amazing days. "Happy New Week!" The motto of many is to Live for the Weekend. Why not live for the entire week? Even as we await a post-pandemic era to arrive, let's resolve to make a difference in our lives and the lives of others in our homes, offices and schools each week of the year. "Happy New Month!" When we examine our monthly planners and budgets, we should ask ourselves: Have I left room for Jesus Christ this month? How can I be a good steward of God's gifts in the coming month? What am I willing to do this month for the sake of the Gospel? As we turn over 2020 to the history books, let's approach 2021 with renewed vigor. Let us see the days, weeks and months ahead for the God-given gifts they truly are: "Happy New Year!" *Iscs Bulletin*



MASS FOR AN INTENTION OR LIGHTING THE SANCTUARY CANDLES

It is a common and beautiful gesture for parishioners to ask to have Mass celebrated in memory of a deceased loved one and/or for some special intention. Praying for our loved ones who are deceased is a spiritual work of mercy. Customarily, an offering is made for a special intentioned Mass. In order to avoid any abuses about the celebration of the Sacrament of the Eucharist, Church law regarding the appropriate stipends for such requests is very specific and the standard offering requested for an intentioned Mass is \$15.00.

You may also donate to lighting the Sanctuary Candle in either the upstairs Church or in the St. Catherine of Siena Chapel in memory of a loved one. The red Sanctuary Lamp is always lit when the Real Presence is in the Tabernacle. There is a requested donation of \$15.00 which is used for the purchase of the candles. The Lamp will be lit for seven days (Sunday to Saturday) in memory of your loved one.

The bulletin lists those requests each week. Any requests to appear in the bulletin must be made no later than one week prior.

CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGING THAT GOD GIVES US ALL, WE EACH WILLINGLY OFFER OUR UNIQUE GIFTS TO ONE ANOTHER AND ALL CREATION IN THE SPIRIT OF JESUS CHRIST.

BAUTISMO DEL SEÑOR



EL BAUTISMO DE JESÚS

En la novela Viaje al Oriente, el escritor alemán Herman Hesse narra el viaje de un grupo de personas al Oriente, símbolo de la casa de la luz.

“Nuestra meta era no sólo el Oriente, más bien el Oriente era no sólo un país y algo geográfico, era la casa y la juventud del alma, era cualquier sitio y ningún sitio, era la unión de todos los tiempos”.

Leo, el personaje central de la historia, acompaña a este grupo de viajeros como su servidor, el que hace las tareas serviles, pero al mismo tiempo los sostiene con su espíritu y sus canciones. Todo va bien hasta que Leo desaparece y el grupo se deshace y se dispersa, cada uno sigue su camino. El narrador de la historia, uno de los viajeros, vagabundea durante años, hasta que un buen día es conducido a la orden que patrocinaba el viaje. Allí, para su sorpresa, descubre que Leo, al que conoció como servidor, es el jefe de la orden, su espíritu y su líder.

Nosotros, los viajeros en busca de la casa de la luz, casa sin puertas, sin sol y sin luna, porque Dios y el Cordero serán nuestra plena luz, nosotros en este tiempo de Navidad celebramos a nuestro líder y Salvador en un niño y lo celebramos a lo largo de todo el año y de toda nuestra vida, ya adulto, como el hombre bautizado, el hombre lleno del Espíritu y el servidor de este grupo de viajeros que somos todos los hombres.

Jesús desaparece, pero la historia no termina, nosotros sabemos dónde encontrarlo porque somos el pueblo del Espíritu, el mismo Espíritu que levantó a los profetas, el mismo Espíritu que llenó a Jesús el día de su bautismo, día de su despertar vocacional, día de su envío misionero, día del Padre y del Espíritu, del cielo abierto y de la voz escuchada.

Jesús nos llena con su mismo Espíritu, nos reúne en asamblea de fe con poder para continuar su misión como servidores y animadores de los viajeros en busca de sentido.

Jesús, antes de comenzar su ministerio, su vida pública, como cualquier otro israelita se sumergió en las aguas bautismales del Jordán y supo aquel día que Él era el perdón, el Amado, y lo siguió aprendiendo sirviendo a los pobres y a los encadenados por el mal y entregado a la implantación del nuevo orden, el Reino de Dios. El bautismo de los cristianos es un gran acontecimiento en nuestra vida como lo fue en la vida de Jesús. No oímos la voz del Padre, pero nos dice también: “Tú eres mi hijo, yo te quiero”. No vemos bajar al Espíritu, pero llena nuestro corazón. El bautismo nos señala la dirección del camino hacia Dios, primer paso hacia la meta, una relación cada día más estrecha con nuestro nuevo Padre, sacramento renovado diariamente y cada vez que hacemos la señal de la cruz.

Jesús, lleno del Espíritu, quiere que sus hijos vivan su adopción de hijos llenos y guiados por su mismo Espíritu.

Al Espíritu todos le tenemos miedo porque no lo podemos controlar y preferimos el orden al bullicio gozoso del Espíritu.

El bautismo de Jesús que hoy celebramos más que una mirada al pasado es una invitación a renovar diariamente el bautismo en el Espíritu.



A Faith
THAT DOES
JUSTICE

ESOL For Beginners

A Faith That Does Justice is offering a free English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) class. The session begins during the week of January 18, 2021. Classes will be held remotely online, 2 days per week for 12 weeks.

Applicants will be interviewed to determine their skill level and will be placed into classes with others with similar skill levels. Classes are free. Participants who attend regularly and apply themselves will leave with basic English language skills.

Interested applicants may apply online at <https://www.faith-justice.org/esol> or by email to ESOL@faith-justice.org or phone to (857) 990-3670. Applications are due as soon as possible.

ESOL para principiantes

A Faith That Does Justice ofrece un programa gratuito de inglés para hablantes de otros idiomas (ESOL). La sesión comienza durante la semana del 18 de enero de 2021. Las clases se impartirán de forma remota en línea, 2 días a la semana durante 12 semanas.

Los solicitantes serán entrevistados para determinar su nivel de habilidad y se les colocará en clases con otros que tengan niveles de habilidad similares. Las clases son gratuitas. Los participantes que asistan regularmente y se apliquen en clase se irán con habilidades básicas del idioma inglés.

Los solicitantes interesados pueden presentar su solicitud en línea en <https://www.faith-justice.org/esol> o por correo electrónico a ESOL@faith-justice.org o por teléfono al (857) 990-3670. Las solicitudes deben entregarse lo antes posible.



MASS SCHEDULE

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

SATURDAY 01/09

9:00 AM

**4:00 PM + NORA & FRANK
BUTLER**

SUNDAY 01/10

8:00 AM

10:30 AM

6:00 PM + THOMAS BRODERICK

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

MONDAY 01/11

8:00 AM

TUESDAY 01/12

8:00 AM

WEDNESDAY 01/13

8:00 AM PARISH PRAYER GUILD

THURSDAY 01/14

8:00 AM

FRIDAY 01/15

9:00 AM

SATURDAY 01/16

9:00 AM

4:00 PM + JESSE O'NEILL

SUNDAY 01/17

8:00 AM

10:30 AM THE RYAN FAMILY

6:00 PM



*Resquiescat in
Pace*

*Catherine Lillian
Webster*

ATTENDANCE

January 2 - 3

4:00 pm 32

8:00 am 19

10:30 am 53

6:00 pm 18

Total 122

**Weekend of Jan 2-3, 2021
Parishioners contributed**

\$ 14,700.55

**To the Weekly Collection
And**

\$ 3,405

To second collections

**For the Solemnity of Mary
Dec 31 - Jan 1**

Parishioners contributed

\$354.00

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



Tax Season Coming Up!

Would you like a statement of your Parish contributions? Please email Dianne at dludy@stmarystcatherine.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.



**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.

JANUARY 11

National Human Trafficking Awareness Day

This day seeks to increase understanding among Americans that human trafficking happens in states and communities across the United States. Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery and occurs when a trafficker uses force, fraud or coercion to control another person for the purpose of engaging in commercial sex acts or soliciting labor or services against his/her will.

January is national slavery & #humantrafficking prevention month. Learn about the Coalition of Catholic Organizations against Human Trafficking at <https://bit.ly/36Q6riU>

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:
stmarystcatherine.org***