



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 31, 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.

Getting Through the Hard Times



Recently, I have met with a number of people who are going through some difficult times. Some of the situations are medical, even life-threatening. Others are economical. Then there are those that are relational. And as each of us knows, when one area of

our lives is not going well, it negatively impacts other areas as well, and we find ourselves struggling to cope with a variety of challenges.

At times like these it's not uncommon for us to wonder, even aloud, "why me?" as we strive to make meaning out of what we're experiencing. We can have thoughts that we're being treated unfairly, or have the worst luck; or we struggle to figure out what we've "done wrong to deserve this."

Some wonder why a good God would allow such a painful event to happen; or they try to resist the belief or even do believe that they're being punished by none other than God. When we're grappling with these notions about God, it can be especially tumultuous because we find it hard to turn to God for the help and consolation we need if we believe God is the one who is causing it.

People have been grappling with the same questions from the beginning of time. Our ancestors in faith believed that if you were having a hard time it was because you had sinned or perhaps your parents had sinned. But Jesus rejected this notion (John 9:2-3). If we ever wonder if God is causing our difficulties, look to Jesus, the human face of God. Nowhere in scripture does it say that Jesus made someone blind or lame or leprous; or that Jesus ostracized anyone or wished them harm. His heart was opened to all, and he strived to bring healing and hope to all, especially those who were suffering.

Sometime ago there was a popular book published by a Jewish Rabbi: "*Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People?*" Interesting reading and the question is great. In my own mind, as one who has been through difficult times and has

INSIDE: CARDINAL SEAN STATEMENT

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)

asked the question, I have come up with several responses.

- One: Bad things happen to everyone and good things happen to every one.
- Two: Goodness or badness may be determined by our expectations.
- Three: What begins as bad sometimes turns out good.
- Four: What begins as good sometimes turns out bad.
- Five: Life is what happens in the good times & bad times.
- Six: Life is messy for everyone.
- Seven: God is with me in all times
- Eight: I will always have, from God, what I need to go forward
- Nine: Life IS beautiful
- Ten: *"Some of God's greatest gifts are our unanswered prayers"* (Garth Brooks)

I don't ask myself the "why me" question as much these days as I once did, even though it comes to my lips from time to time. Usually I catch myself and chuckle as I think *Why not me*. And then I turn to the One who loves me unconditionally and whose promise to NEVER abandon or forsake me holds firm.

Fr. Ronan

February 7: Fuel Collection

Next Sunday is the Parish Fuel Collection. As you know, heating costs are one of the largest expenses for your home. The same is true for the Parish.

Steps have been taken to increase efficiency of our buildings, but costs remain high. Last year the Parish spent \$28,000 in heating bills alone.

In these Covid times, envelopes can be placed in the baskets at the rear of the Church as you leave.

Thank you for your continued generosity!

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

January 20, 2021

Cardinal O'Malley Statement on the Inauguration of President Joseph Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris

"Today we offer our prayers and best wishes for President Joseph Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris as they undertake the important work of governing our nation. We ask God's blessings on them for good health, wisdom in all their decisions and their work of building bridges of reconciliation.

We congratulate Vice President Harris on being inaugurated the first woman, first person of color and first Asian American to serve as Vice President.

We pray that President and Vice President enact policies that provide care for the forgotten and vulnerable, heal our nation from this deadly pandemic, welcome the immigrant, provide economic justice and opportunity for all, work to end systemic racism and promote peace across our country and throughout the world. We will endeavor to dialogue with the Biden Administration to advance our commitment to the protection of human life from conception to natural death.

Our nation is experiencing serious and troubling division. In addressing a Joint Session of Congress in 2015, Pope Francis spoke of *"the disturbing social and political situation of the world today"* and encouraged us to *"move forward together, as one, in a renewed spirit of fraternity and solidarity, cooperating generously for the common good"*. The Holy Father called us to *"resolve to support one another, with respect for our differences and our convictions of conscience"*. With the help of God and one another may we strive for that unity of purpose."

POPE PRAYS THAT BIDEN HEAL DIVISIONS, PROMOTE HUMAN DIGNITY

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis prayed that President Joe Biden would work to heal the divisions in U.S. society and promote human dignity and peace around the globe.

"Under your leadership, may the American people continue to draw strength from the lofty political, ethical and religious values that have inspired the nation since its founding," the pope wrote in a congratulatory message Jan. 20 as Biden was inaugurated as the 46th president of the United States.

Popes traditionally have sent such messages and assurances of prayer to a new U.S. president upon his inauguration and have included mention of issues of concern, particularly about the dignity of every human life.

"At a time when the grave crises facing our human family call for farsighted and united responses," Pope Francis wrote to Biden, "I pray that your decisions will be guided by a concern for building a society marked by authentic justice and freedom, together with unfailing respect for the rights and dignity of every person, especially the poor, the vulnerable and those who have no voice."

"I likewise ask God, the source of all wisdom and truth, to guide your efforts to foster understanding, reconciliation and peace within the United States and among the nations of the world in order to advance the universal common good," he said.

Pope Francis also prayed that Biden, his family and "the beloved American people" would receive "an abundance of blessings."

AFTER DIVORCE: HEALING FROM THE INSIDE OUT

A Virtual Seminar with author, Rose Sweet

February 10, 2021 | 7:00--9:00 PM

To register for this complimentary event,

Are you newly divorced? Maybe it's been a while and you're still struggling. Regardless, when the trauma of divorce hits, or its residual pain lingers for years, true healing must begin deep within. The ministry of Family Life & Ecclesial Movements of the Archdiocese of Boston will host a seminar in support of Catholics who are experiencing divorce or separation. **Rose Sweet, host of the Ascension Press program, *Surviving Divorce***, will guide participants into that place in the heart where fears, and anxieties, hopes and dreams co-exist. Drawing from the healing touch of Christ, you'll learn four simple steps to breaking free and living that abundant life for which you were made! Join us for this special event, featuring prayer, a personal witness testimony on overcoming the pain of divorce, Rose's keynote address, and Q&A following the presentation.

IV Domingo DEL TIEMPO ORDINARIO



«Estoy perdido... No hay nada que hacer.» Qué duro es escuchar a quien se nos confía con estas o parecidas palabras. Pocos sentimientos habrá tan penosos para el ser humano como esa sensación de verse hundido sin remedio.

Todo se desata, a veces, a partir de una desgracia que el individuo se siente incapaz de soportar: «Es demasiado para mí. No puedo más. Voy a volverme loco.» La persona no sabe dónde encontrar consuelo. Ya nada será como antes. Algo se ha roto para siempre.

Otras veces es la soledad sentida de manera angustiada: «Nadie me entiende. Nadie me quiere. Todos me han dejado solo.» Frustrada en lo más íntimo, la persona se hunde en la amargura. Sabe que nadie le espera ya en ningún lugar. ¿Qué

sentido puede tener seguir viviendo sin la presencia de una persona amada?

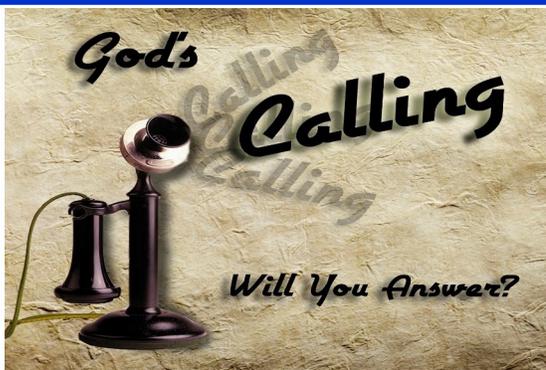
En algunos momentos puede aparecer una inexplicable sensación de malestar: «No tengo ganas de vivir. Nada me llena. Todo me da igual.» La persona no sabe cómo sacudirse de encima esa fastidiosa impresión de vacío y falsedad. Hay que seguir viviendo, pero uno se siente acabado.

En otras ocasiones el ser humano experimenta el cansancio de su propio corazón: «Estoy harto de todo y de todos.» Una especie de entumecimiento interior se apodera de la persona. Hay que «seguir tirando», pero hace tiempo que la vida se ha apagado.

No es tampoco tan extraña la experiencia del pecado: «Mi vida es un desastre. He dado muchos pasos equivocados. Poco a poco me he ido alejando de Dios, y ahora no tengo fuerzas para cambiar.» La persona no se atreve ya a enfrentarse a su propia conciencia. Siente confusamente el peso de la culpa, pero no sabe cómo salir de ese estado.

Las parábolas de la oveja perdida, la moneda perdida y el hijo perdido (*Lucas 15, 1-32*) insisten todas ellas en lo mismo: Dios es alguien que se alegra con la recuperación de todo hombre o mujer que se veía perdido. No hay desgracia ni pecado, no hay cansancio ni soledad, no hay crimen ni oscuridad que te pueda destruir definitivamente. Nadie está perdido para Dios.

Esta es la Buena Noticia del evangelio: No hay desesperación definitiva; siempre se puede seguir esperando incluso «contra toda esperanza». Dios es Salvador para todos aquellos que se ven desbordados por el mal, el pecado, la impotencia o la fragilidad. Esto es lo que descubren con admiración aquellas gentes de Galilea que son testigos del poder y la bondad de Jesús que libera del «*espíritu inmundo*» a aquel pobre hombre que se retuerce poseído por el mal.



Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Weekend of January 30/31, 2021

In today's Gospel we hear proclaimed the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. He teaches. He heals. And all are amazed. By their baptism, Christian stewards realize they are called to do the same in their lives. They are called to be the light of Christ each day. As we bring closure to the beginning of this new year, now is a good time to ask the Lord to fill our hearts with courage and faith, so that we too may publicly minister in his name. Let us ask that we may be liberated from our insecurities and fear so that we can share the Gospel authoritatively and work to heal at least one

wounded relationship in the coming months ahead.

January 31- February 6

It's Catholic Schools Week!

We're grateful for all of the wonderful teachers and students who contribute so much to the life of our parish, parishioners and our Church.



The month of February is dedicated to the Holy Family.

The special devotion proposes that the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph serves as the model of virtue of all Christian households

On February 2nd we celebrate The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

We also celebrate Candlemas as Jesus is the light of the world and the purification of Our Lady. On this feast of the Presentation, the Gospel of Luke gives us a lovely scene on which to reflect. Mary and Joseph bring the child Jesus to the Temple to present him to the Lord. In the Temple, both Simeon and Anna, elders in the Temple, recognized Jesus as the Messiah, and gave witness to his presence. We come to Mass each week and receive Jesus Christ in Holy Communion. As we go forth from Mass today, we too give witness to Christ. Let us pray that in all we say and do, Christ will be visibly present in our lives.



FEBRUARY 3 - St. Blaise, bishop and martyr who died in 316 A.D. has been honored on February 3rd for many centuries. His cult was far reaching, including being included in the list of the Fourteen Holy Helpers. On his feast, the blessing of the throats takes place. The Blessing of the Throats is unique in that it uses the beeswax candles that were blessed the previous day on the feast of the Presentation. The candles are put in an "X" or cross-form and tied with ribbon. These are placed at the neck near the throat area as the priest says the blessing:

According to the Acts, while Blaise was being taken into custody, a distraught mother, whose only child was choking on a fishbone, threw herself at his feet and implored his intercession. Touched at her grief, he offered up his prayers, and the child was cured. Consequently, Saint Blaise is invoked for protection against injuries and illnesses of the throat. The following prayer is usually said ...

Through the intercession of St. Blaise, bishop and martyr,
may God deliver you free from every disease of the throat,
and from every other disease.

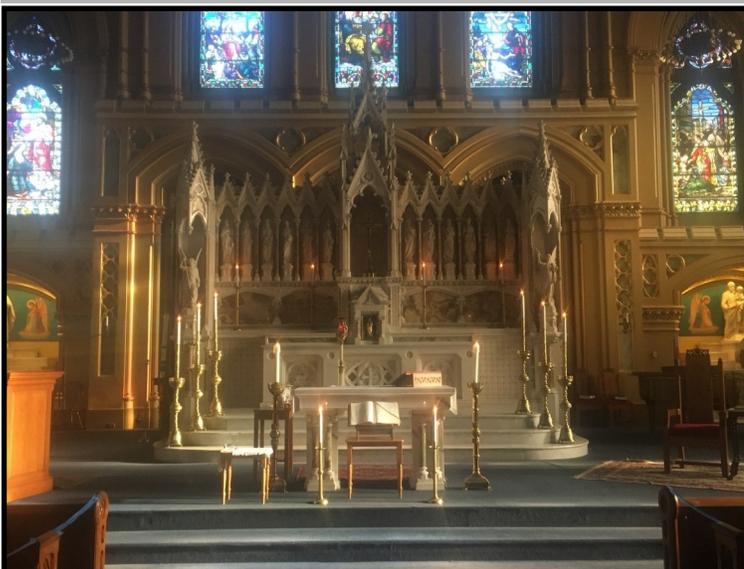
In the name of the Father and of the Son, + and of the Holy Spirit.
R. Amen.



**This year, due to Covid restrictions, individual blessings will not happen.
A general blessing will be given instead.**

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.**



Word of God Sunday - January 24, 2021



Baptized January 23rd - Daniel Joseph Bielenin III

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.

MASS SCHEDULE

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

SATURDAY 01/30

9:00 AM

4:00 PM + BETTY HENNESSEY

SUNDAY 01/31

8:00 AM

10:30 AM + JAMES F. MURPHY

6:00 PM

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

MONDAY 02/01

8:00 AM

TUESDAY 02/02

8:00 AM

WEDNESDAY 02/03

8:00 AM PARISH PRAYER GUILD

THURSDAY 02/04

8:00 AM

FRIDAY 02/05

8:00 AM

SATURDAY 02/06

9:00 AM

**4:00 PM + CATHERINE "KAY"
WEBSTER**

SUNDAY 02/07

8:00 AM

**10:30 AM + NORA COSTELLO &
MARY MEISSNER**

6:00 PM

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 Parish, please
visit our website for events and re-
sources. You may also register on
line at:
stmarystcatherine.org*

ATTENDANCE

January 23 - 24

4:00 pm 47

8:00 am 20

10:30 am 56

6:00 pm 14

Total 131

**Weekend of Jan 23,24
2021
Parishioners contributed**

\$ 2,768.00

**To the Weekly Collection
And**

\$ 358.00

To second collections

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

Important Dates - February

**February 2 - Feast of the
Presentation**

**February 7-14 – National Marriage
Week**

**February 8 – International Day of
Prayer and Awareness
Against Human Trafficking**

**February 11 – World Day for the
Sick**

February 14 – World Marriage Day

February 14 – St. Valentine's Day

February 15 – Presidents' Day

**February 17 – Ash Wednesday –
Lent Begins**

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



**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.



**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.



**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: Dona.lecam@gmail.com

for the Zoom information.

All are most welcome.



**Resquiescat
in Pace**

**Thomas
Edward Byrne**

And

Arthur Mari