



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.

February 14, 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.

A Lent Unlike Any Other



A mere few weeks after February 26, Ash Wednesday, 2020, all churches throughout the Commonwealth closed in response to the beginning phases of the pandemic. Now on February 17 a year later, Ash Wednesday arrives once again. Christians adhere with great

fervor to the practice of receiving ashes, blessed and smudged on their foreheads. The ritual includes a simple phrase uttered by the minister, a reminder of an enduring truth and/or an exhortation to pursue more closely a life of grace. Both phrases seem to be a side of the same coin.

It is the season to be aware of our mortality, our brokenness, our sinfulness, and the longing for a more complete and fulfilling life. Lent is an invitation to start once again. It's time to repair that which is damaged, neglected, or broken within ourselves, in our relationships with others, and most importantly in our relationship with God.

As we think about the beginnings of Lent this year and as we longingly search for the end of the pandemic, it's easy to look only forward and not recall the challenges, heartaches, grief, hurt, and sadness of the previous year. But is it possible for us to believe we can step into getting back to where we once were without reconciling where we have been? In many cases, that's a challenging thing to do. For it seems to me the truth is we are always struggling with our mortality. We're always making mistakes, falling down, not ending up where we hoped to be, feeling less than we really are, and at times, disappointed in ourselves and in others. The pandemic is exacerbating all this and so much more.

So often, when we think of sin our perspective can be what we learned as children or teenagers. In reality, sin is about the daily choices we make about love. Jesus' only command to us, reinforced continually by His Word, His life, His example, and in the sacraments is about how we are to love one another as we have been loved by Him. That explains the CROSS becoming the central symbol of the Lenten journey: it's a story of selfless giving out of love for others. It's a very high threshold and yet a beautiful thing to strive towards.

The church offers us three ways to live out our Lenten journey: prayer, fasting

INSIDE: RESTATEMENT OF VOWS

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

Katie O'Reilly

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://www.facebook.com/stmaryscatherine)

and almsgiving. Once again, we need to bring those old words, which are rich and ever new, into a language appropriate to this time. For example, prayer is about a relationship each of us has with Jesus. Fasting is about self-sacrifice. Yet mostly and ideally, it's about giving up all that which interferes with living a life of love: refraining from criticism, gossip, unkindness, impatience, selfishness, self-centeredness, self-denigration, and all of the behaviors that are harmful to our wellbeing and the well-being of others.

Almsgiving is a delightful old phrase and it implies giving, usually financially, to those who have a hand out and are in need. Obviously, that's a good thing. In an even deeper way, almsgiving can be understood as generosity of heart manifested in respect for others, giving of ourselves and caring for others, thoughtfulness, forgiveness, and so much more.

Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021, is clearly one unlike any other that we have lived in our lifetimes and it may be an experience each one of us needs more than ever before. We've all been through so much and, if your journey has been at all like mine, we regret some of the ways we've lived these past months. And yet, the journey has opened up new ways of understanding God's love for us and our call to respond to God's love in the way we live with one another.

This is a Lent to start fresh. Join us as we celebrate Ash Wednesday in our parish church with Masses in the morning, the noon, and in the evening. The 8AM morning Mass on Ash Wednesday will be live-streamed and recorded on our website for you to view when possible. At the Parish Center, ashes and helpful materials will be available in the lobby throughout the day.

A new beginning is a good thing and is there for the offering! May each of us engage in a way unlike any other savoring the unconditional love of God and loving God in return.

Fr. Ronan

LENT
WALKING WITH CHRIST

A Season of Grace

The season will begin with our celebration of **Ash Wednesday, on February 17, 2021**. Given the pandemic, ashes will be blessed at the conclusion of Mass and we

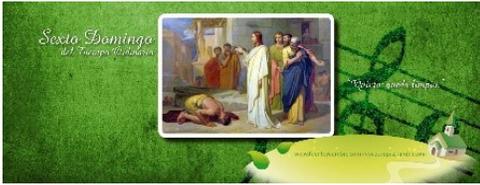
will offer each person a container with ashes and relevant prayers.

Please join us at **8AM (live-streamed and recorded on our website), 12 Noon, or 6:30PM**. Those who are not able to attend Mass may receive blessed ashes at the Parish Center from **9AM to 5PM**.

**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**



Hasta hace muy poco, las personas de todo el mundo temían la lepra, una enfermedad que ataca las extremidades (pies, dedos, nariz) y les hace perder la sensibilidad y comenzar a pudrirse. La lepra consume el cuerpo llevando a una muerte dolorosa. Para protegerse, diferentes sociedades aislaron al leproso. Una persona que toca a un leproso se vuelve impura.

Jesús hace algo extraordinario al extender la mano y tocar al leproso. Jesús nos está diciendo algo. Si queremos ayudar a otros, debemos tocar su herida. La gente está herida, sufriendo. No los ayudamos tanto por darles cosas sino por tocar su herida. Es notable que Jesús toque al leproso y también es impresionante que el leproso se le acerque. Como escuchamos en la primera lectura, un leproso tuvo que usar ropa rasgada y gritar, "Soy impuro". Este leproso se atreve a acercarse a Jesús y arrodillarse frente a él. Él pide limpieza. "Si lo deseas, puedes curarme".

Como discípulos misioneros, debemos permitir que las personas se nos acerquen. Los católicos somos amistosos, pero no somos tan buenos para dar la bienvenida, creando la sensación de que la gente puede acercarse a nosotros. He comentado sobre nuestra tendencia a tomar el exterior de los bancos en lugar de avanzar hacia el centro. En otras formas, no enviamos una señal de bienvenida a la persona que está sola, herida o sufriendo.

El Evangelio dice que Jesús fue "conmovido". En su libro Reflexiones sobre el Discipulado, el Obispo Mueggenborg explica que la compasión, la misericordia y la compasión se refieren a algo más que el sentimiento que experimentamos cuando vemos a alguien en apuros. El obispo Mueggenborg escribe: "Para Jesús, sin embargo, la compasión no era solo un sentimiento o emoción, sino que la compasión era una motivación para la acción". En este caso, la acción implica una palabra curativa y un toque sanador.

Jesús puede sanarnos pero tenemos que enfrentar esta pregunta: ¿realmente queremos ser sanados? El presidente Lyndon Johnson contó una historia sobre un hombre que estaba perdiendo la audición. Acude a un médico que lo examina y luego le pregunta cuánto está tomando. El hombre dice: "Ah, alrededor de medio litro de whisky al día". El médico le dice que deje de tomar y regrese en dos meses.

Después del primer mes, su audición mejora. Cuando regresa al médico después de 2 meses, sin embargo, el médico lo examina nuevamente. Resulta que su audición es tan mala como antes. El doctor le pregunta si dejó de beber. "Bueno", dice, "lo intenté durante un mes y escuché mejor. Pero, ya sabes, me gusta como me siento después de tomar el medio litro que después de algunas de las cosas que he escuchado". Somos como ese hombre. En el fondo, realmente no queremos ser sanados. Hay algunas cosas que preferimos no escuchar, especialmente si esto significa abrirnos a las heridas y sufrimientos de los demás.

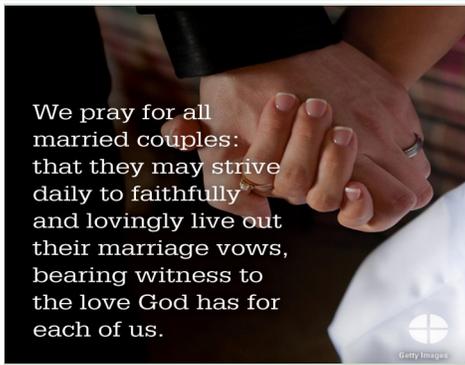
La semana pasada hablamos acerca de cómo convertirse en un discípulo significa recoger la mochila que Dios ha puesto en su camino. Tú y yo tenemos que tomar esa carga y llevarla. Dios tiene una tarea para cada uno de nosotros. Él quiere que hagamos esa tarea, que carguemos con nuestra carga y sigamos a Jesús. Puede sentirse demasiado herido, demasiado quebrantado como para soportar cualquier carga. Si te sientes así, eres exactamente el que Jesús está buscando. Él quiere hablarte, tocarte, curarte. Puede ser que no sucede en un instante. Puede requerir tiempo. Es por eso que tenemos una temporada de cuarenta días llamada Cuaresma. Jesús quiere sanarte a través de la oración, el ayuno y la generosidad.

Reclamamos el significado más profundo del amor. Tenga una cena especial el martes por la tarde y comience la Cuaresma bien el Miércoles de Ceniza. Jesús te enseñará el significado del amor a través de la oración, el ayuno y la generosidad. Puedes sentirte reacio a dejar que Jesús te toque, pero por favor ven este miércoles. Recibe la cruz de cenizas. Dile a Jesús: "Si quieres, puedes curarme". Permitir que Jesús te toque. "Si quiero," dice "sana". Amén.

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time - February 13/14, 2021



The fate of a leper is a great tragedy at any time and place. In Jesus' time, lepers were considered condemned, part of the plagues God sent as punishment. They were cast out of society and abandoned. Saint Mark's Gospel reveals the unthinkable. Jesus reaches out and touches a leper. He risks catching the contagious disease and heals the man. As the Gospel story teaches, no one is abandoned by Christ. Are there those in our society or in our personal lives for whom we ascribe no hope, who we have abandoned, treated like lepers? Or as Christ's stewards of our sisters and brothers, do we risk reaching out and touching those who may seem to us to be "unclean" or not worthy of our time or attention?



We pray for all married couples: that they may strive daily to faithfully and lovingly live out their marriage vows, bearing witness to the love God has for each of us.

Marriage

"Among the many blessings that God has showered upon us in Christ is the blessing of marriage, a gift bestowed by the Creator from the creation of the human race...It is a source of blessing to the couple, to their families, and to society and includes the wondrous gift of co-creating human life." USCCB, *Marriage: Love and Life in the Divine Plan*, 2009.

Couples (please face each other and repeat after the celebrant):

Husbands: I have taken you _____, to be my wife. I promise to be true to you in the good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. I will love you and honor you all the days of my life.

Wives: I have taken you, _____, to be my husband. I promise to be true to you in the good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. I will love you and honor you all the days of my life.

Maridos: Te he tomado _____, para ser mi esposa. Prometo serte fiel en los buenos y malos momentos, en la enfermedad y en la salud. Te amaré y te honraré todos los días de mi vida.

Esposas: Te he tomado, _____, para que seas mi esposo. Prometo serte fiel en los buenos y malos momentos, en la enfermedad y en la salud. Te amaré y te honraré todos los días de mi vida.



Be not forgetful of prayer.
Everytime you pray,
if your prayer is sincere,
there will be new feeling
and new meaning in it,
which will give you fresh courage,
and you will understand
that prayer is an education.

--Feodor Dostoevsky, *The Brothers Karamozov*

A Daily Prayer for Lent

Loving God, as I begin my journey toward spiritual growth, help me to look deep within myself and let go of the old and embrace the new life that comes from you.

Give me a grateful heart, mindful that all I am and all I have come from you.

Give me a generous heart, that I may share what I have in full measure with those in need.

Give me a loving and forgiving heart, that I may love as you love and forgive as you forgive.

I ask this in the name of Your Son Jesus. Amen.



Health Care Disparities: What Can We Do About It?

On Tuesday, February 16, A Faith That Does Justice is holding a Community Meeting called Health Care Disparities: What Can We Do About It? We will welcome speakers who will discuss the disparities in our health care system that result from systemic racism and related trauma. The conversation

will focus on education and action. Attendees will leave the meeting inspired to work towards change and equipped with ideas to do so.

We are pleased to welcome leading experts in health care and health disparities to join us for this conversation:

Margarita Alegría, PhD is the Chief of the Disparities Research Unit at the Massachusetts General Hospital and The Mongan Institute, the Harry G. Lehnert, Jr. and Lucille F. Cyr Lehnert Endowed MGH Research Institute Chair and a Professor in the Departments of Medicine and Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School.

Dr. Thea L. James is an Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine at Boston Medical Center/Boston University School of Medicine. She also serves as the Associate Chief Medical Officer, Vice President of Mission, and Director of the Violence Intervention Advocacy Program (VIAP) at Boston Medical Center.

María Rosario González Albuixech is the Director of Communications and Immigrant Health at Health Care For All. A native of Spain, she has held multiple prominent positions at Spanish language media outlets and served as the Community Education Manager at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

Peter W. Gyves, SJ, MD, is a member of the USA East Province of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits). He is founder and director of A Faith That Does Justice, Inc. in Boston, Massachusetts. (moderator)

February 16, 2021

6:30-8:00 PM ET

Via Zoom

Register for free: <http://bit.ly/3cr5Szp>



In just a couple of weeks, we will be launching our parish's annual Catholic Appeal. As you may know, the Catholic Appeal funds the 51 Central Ministries of the Archdiocese that support our parish on a daily basis—especially as we continue to navigate the pandemic. You may have already received a letter from Cardinal Seán asking for your early support. If you are able, please consider responding to that request to help our parish meet our Appeal goal early. You can offer your support by going online to bostoncatholicappeal.org to make your gift at any time or scan the QR code above. Thank you for your support!

Charlestown Vaccination Clinic

As part of Phase 2 of the Commonwealth's COVID-19 Rollout, NEW Health Charlestown will be providing vaccine to eligible patients and community residents in Charlestown who are 75 years and older.

The Vaccination Clinic's location is at 15 Tufts Street. The entrance is located behind the health center.

If you would like to schedule an appointment please call 857-238-1141 leave your name with spelling, address, and your date of birth with a telephone number you can be reached, and a patient service representative will call you back to schedule the appointment.

Please note in order to schedule a vaccine appointment, you must be registered with Massachusetts General Brigham's Hospital, if not please call 866-211-6588 to register. We will also be asking screening questions to assess your eligibility at the time of scheduling.

MASS SCHEDULE

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

SATURDAY 02/13

9:00 AM

4:00 PM

SUNDAY 02/14

8:00 AM + ARTHUR MARI

**10:30 AM + PATRICK CURRY &
MARY COFFEY**

6:00 PM

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

MONDAY 02/15 - HOLIDAY

9:00 AM

TUESDAY 02/16

8:00 AM

WEDNESDAY 02/17

8:00 AM ASH WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY 02/18

8:00 AM

FRIDAY 02/19

8:00 AM

SATURDAY 02/20

9:00 AM

4:00 PM + MARY DESIMONE

SUNDAY 02/21

8:00 AM

10:30 AM + KATHLEEN SAVIANO

6:00 PM



*Resquiescat
in
Pace*

*John R
"Jack"
Duffy*

ATTENDANCE

February 6 - 7

4:00 pm	38
8:00 am	18
10:30 am	53
6:00 pm	No Mass
Due to weather	
Total	109

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.



**Weekend of
Feb 6 - 7, 2021
Parishioners contributed**

\$ 5,832.55
To the Weekly Collection
And
\$1,180 for the second collection

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



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

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.

Great News - Worldwide Marriage Encounter has gone "Virtual"!

To support married couples during this time of social distancing, Worldwide Marriage Encounter is sponsoring virtual marriage experiences. Some are on weekends and some span multiple weeks on a given weekday. Couples will explore their individual personality styles, improve listening and communication skills, understand God's plan for their marriage, and learn how to keep their relationship a priority. Registration is limited and a \$100 application fee is required. For more information or to apply, call at or visit them at <https://wwwmema.org/>.

"Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God." Does your marriage give glory to God? Learn how to let your Sacrament shine on an upcoming virtual Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend on Feb 22-Mar 15, 2021 in VIRTUAL 3RE, NY and Mar 19-21, 2021 in HAWTHORNE, NJ

Welcome

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