



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 7, 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.

LOVE & MARRIAGE



better know each other before deciding if there is a future to the relationship. Ironically the failure rate of these marriages exceeds those of couples who choose not to cohabitate before marriage. And in all cases, every married and engaged couple knows that the failure rate of marriage in America is now epidemic – almost 50% of all marriages will fail, ending in separation and divorce.

The amount of pain and sadness, depression and sense of failure, guilt and blame in every one of these marriages is staggering. There are no winners. It is clearly the case that some marriages, in hindsight, should not have happened. The inability of one or the other of the partners to enter into the commitment was not seen at the time, and later on painfully comes to light. The ending of such marriages, traumatic as that is, may be best for everyone. Additionally it probably follows if such a large number of marriages fail, that many of those that do not also have struggles – that making a marriage “work” is anything but easy. Yet the hard work of marriage is not a common or popular topic – maybe it should be.

Think about it: “I take you ___ for my lawful wife/husband, to have and to hold,

It is one of those remarkable paradoxes that while it is popularly perceived that the earliest days of a marriage are the most wonderful – it is not as clearly recognized that those same days can be some of the most challenging! Increasingly couples are marrying a bit later in life after their education and beginning a career.

Some have lived alone out of their own home for a time and adapting to life with another is not automatic. Large numbers of couples live together before getting engaged and deciding to marry. One perception is that this is a prudent decision – in order to get to

INSIDE: OUR LADY OF LOURDES

Mass Schedule

Saturday – St. Mary Church

900 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

from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, until death do us part." How can an ordinary person of sound mind make such a promise? The immensity of the commitment seems to me beyond comprehension! For one thing, it is so unconditional and for another it is forever. The point being, the actual capacity for making and for keeping such a vow seems to demand more than any human can deliver. And it may be just in that truth that one needs to search for the answer of how such a vow can be kept.

The Catholic Church celebrates marriage as one of the seven sacraments. We profess that God is active, involved in and a source of Grace to a man and woman as they embrace marriage. And it is precisely this promise that God is a part of the relationship that invites the engaged couple to be amazed at the gift of their Love that is the very source of the capacity to make and keep the marriage vow.

With this foundational understanding as an integral part of married life, the entire experience of the vocation of marriage takes on a different dimension. It is a holy life! It is a life of loving, sharing, forgiving, supporting, cooperating, tolerating, celebrating and loving again. Accepting that one's life partner is flawed and not always attractive;

selfish and not always generous; petty and not always kind, and so much more, is hard work! Living within a loving relationship always seems to bring out the best of us and the worst of us. In fact one's marriage will likely bring to light one's own need to grow and mature in new ways. And it is precisely because Love is present that each person can honestly accept themselves, be forgiving, patient and understanding and go forward.

We read in Sacred Scripture: "Love is of God ... for God is Love" (1 John 4:7). Perhaps one dimension of the crisis in marriages in our time is the failure to recognize the very nature of Love. A marriage that will endure and flourish is grounded in Love and from Love everything flows, and to Love, everything returns. And because of Love, the hard work of marriage is not only possible but can be lovingly undertaken – with good results.

Next Sunday, we celebrate World Marriage Day. Married couples who come to Mass will be invited to restate their vows and celebrate the love they have found in one another that grows and perseveres "for better, for worse; for richer, for poorer; in sickness and in health; to love and to cherish."

Fr. Ronan



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!

**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)



Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes - February 11th

On December 8, 1854, Pope Pius IX proclaimed the dogma of the Immaculate Conception in the apostolic constitution *Ineffabilis Deus*. A little more than three years later, on February 11, 1858, a young lady appeared to Bernadette Soubirous. This began a series of visions. During the apparition on March 25, the lady identified herself with the words: "I am the Immaculate Conception."

Bernadette was a sickly child of poor parents. Their practice of the Catholic faith was scarcely more than lukewarm. Bernadette could pray the Our Father, the Hail Mary and the Creed. She also knew the prayer of the Miraculous Medal: "O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee."

During interrogations Bernadette gave an account of what she saw. It was "something white in the shape of a girl." She used the word *aquero*, a dialect term meaning "this thing." It was "a pretty young girl with a rosary over her arm." Her white robe was encircled by a blue girdle. She wore a white veil. There was a yellow rose on each foot. A rosary was in her hand. Bernadette was also impressed by the fact that the lady did not use the informal form of address (*tu*), but the polite form (*vous*). The humble virgin appeared to a humble girl and treated her with dignity.

Through that humble girl, Mary revitalized and continues to revitalize the faith of millions of people. People began to flock to Lourdes from other parts of France and from all over the world. In 1862 Church authorities confirmed the authenticity of the apparitions of Our Lady of Lourdes. The Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes became worldwide in 1907.

Lourdes has become a place of pilgrimage and healing, but even more of faith. Church authorities have recognized over 60 miraculous cures, although there have probably been many more. To people of faith this is not surprising. It is a continuation of Jesus' healing miracles—now performed at the intercession of his mother. Some would say that the greater miracles are hidden. Many who visit Lourdes return home with renewed faith and a readiness to serve God in their needy brothers and sisters. There still may be people who doubt the apparitions of Lourdes. Perhaps the best that can be said to them are the words that introduce the film *The Song of Bernadette*: "For those who believe in God, no explanation is necessary. For those who do not believe, no explanation is possible." (American Catholic .org)



Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time - February 6/7, 2021

In today's Gospel we encounter a great number of suffering people who seek the healing touch of Jesus: "The whole town was gathered at the door." Jesus could not possibly respond to them all. But the Gospel also reveals Jesus, after praying in solitude, sensing an urgency to proclaim the Good News of his Father's love to those who suffer in the nearby villages and towns and being present to them. Stewards are called to follow in Jesus' footsteps, to respond to those who suffer with compassion. How are we responding to the suffering in our world? How are we using our gifts to continue the work of Christ's redemptive healing?



Baptized
January 30

Conor
John
DeRosa



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



World Day of the Sick: Pope urges “trust-based relationship” in care for the sick – February 11, 2021

In his message for the 29th World Day of the Sick on 11 February, Pope Francis urges a path of healing grounded in a trusting and interpersonal relationship between the sick and those who care for them.

“A society is all the more human to the degree that it cares effectively for its most frail and suffering members, in a spirit of fraternal love.” Pope Francis makes the point in his message for this year’s World Day of the Sick.

In order to fight hypocrisy and self-idolatry, he says, Jesus asks us to “stop and listen, to establish a direct and personal relationship with others, to feel empathy and compassion, and to let their suffering become our own as we seek to serve them,” the Pope says in the message, released by the Vatican on Tuesday.

The Catholic Church marks the annual day on 11 February, the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. Instituted by Pope Saint John Paul II on 13 May 1992, the first World Day of the Sick was marked the following year. The theme of this year’s observance is, “You have but one teacher and you are all brothers” (Mt 23:8), which calls for “a trust-based relationship to guide care for the sick”.

Pope Francis says that the annual day “is an opportunity to devote special attention to the sick and to those who provide them with assistance and care both in healthcare institutions and within families and communities.” He expresses his spiritual closeness and the Church’s loving concern for those suffering the coronavirus pandemic, especially the poor and the marginalized.

Excerpt from article by Robin Gomes, Vatican News

For Pope Francis’ full message go to: www.vatican.va and search for “World day of the sick”.



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

The Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and the International Union of Superiors General has designated February 8 as an annual day of prayer and awareness against human trafficking. February 8 is the feast day of St. Josephine Bakhita, who was kidnapped as a child and sold into slavery in Sudan and Italy. Once Josephine was freed, she became a Canossian nun and dedicated her life to sharing her testament of deliverance from slavery and comforting the poor and suffering. She was declared a Saint in 2000.

On February 8, Catholics all over the world are encouraged to pray for those who are suffering through this affront to human dignity, and also comfort, strengthen, and help empower survivors.



FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

“Hold fast to dreams, for if dreams die, life is a broken winged bird that cannot fly.” – Langston Hughes, Poet, Playwright

“I would like to be remembered as a person who wanted to be free... so other people would be also free.” - Rosa Parks, Civil Rights Activist

Black History Month, or National African American History Month, has been celebrated annually since 1915. It is a time to recognize and celebrate the achievements by black Americans and their central role in United States History.

Black History month has been celebrated by every U.S. President during the month of February since 1976. Other countries in the world, including Canada and the United Kingdom also devote a month to celebrating black history.

During this month, make a point of researching the stories of a variety of African American men and women who have made extraordinary contributions to our society and to the Catholic Church throughout history.

Merciful God, in this troubled world we live in, heal and renew us in these trying times. Inspire us to look beyond our own fears, self-absorption and indifference, and to listen to the voice of conscience within us that orients us towards truth, love and justice. May we learn to be a society free of embedded judgments and racism, and celebrate together our differences and our humanity. Amen. Adapted Prayer written by Dianna Ortiz, O.S.U.

V Domingo DEL TIEMPO ORDINARIO



LA CONVENCION MUNDIAL DE LOS DEMONIOS

Satanás abrió la sesión con el siguiente mensaje: Tenemos que reconocer que no conseguimos impedir que los cristianos vayan a la iglesia, lean la Biblia y que tengan una relación de amistad con Jesús y el problema es que, cuando se conectan vitalmente con Jesús, nuestro poder se apaga. Dejemos que vayan a la iglesia, que hagan sus novenas y rosarios, pero tenemos que llenar sus mentes para que no puedan conectarse con Jesús. Tenéis que distraer y entretener a los hombres para que no se conecten con Jesús.

¿Cómo lo haremos?, preguntaron los demonios. Tenéis que conseguir que los hombres estén siempre ocupados, que las radios y las televisiones estén siempre funcionando, sus buzones tienen que estar llenos de periódicos, de revistas, de ofertas de viajes, de cruceros, animadles a comprar loterías, a consumir espectáculos, deportes, cine X, todo lo que despierte sus instintos y falsas esperanzas, hacedles trabajar tanto que no tengan tiempo para sus esposas y las familias se rompan, que no tengan tiempo para pensar ni para rezar ni para acordarse de Dios aunque estén en la iglesia. Mantened a los hombres ocupados, siempre ocupados y llenad sus mentes con fantasías imposibles.

¿Creen ustedes que este plan del demonio funciona? Marcos nos presenta en el evangelio de este domingo a un Jesús muy ocupado. Como cualquier otro judío Jesús pasa la mañana en la sinagoga proclamando la Palabra, predicando y haciendo callar a los espíritus inmundos. Comida en casa de Pedro, cuartel general de Jesús y sus discípulos. La salvación entra en su casa y manifiesta que la salvación además de ser personal tiene que influir también en todos los miembros de la familia. La casa de Pedro es la casa de Jesús y la primera responsabilidad de Pedro era ofrecer la salvación a los suyos poniéndolos en contacto con Jesús.

El evangelio nos dice que la suegra de Pedro se levantó y se puso a servirles. La palabra servicio es la más pronunciada en la Iglesia y en la sociedad. Todos nos llamamos servidores, servidores de la comunidad o servidores públicos, del bien común, todos decimos “a su servicio” pero son pocos los que sirven sin esperar nada a cambio. Cuentan que una viuda le dijo un día a su párroco: “He oído que va a contratar a un señor para que barra las dependencias de la iglesia. Yo me ofrezco a hacerlo gratis. El dinero que le iba a pagar puede entregarlo a Caritas. Cada mañana cuando terminaba su trabajo nocturno limpiando oficinas iba a la iglesia, barría, quitaba el polvo y todo quedaba en orden y limpiísimo. Años más tarde, ya enferma el párroco fue a visitarla. La viuda le dijo: Estoy a punto de morir y me pregunto qué le diré al Señor cuando me pregunte qué he hecho. No diga nada, simplemente enséñele sus manos, le dijo el párroco.

Terminado el sábado con la puesta del sol, a la puerta de la casa de Pedro acuden los enfermos, los pecadores, los poseídos por los espíritus, los curiosos, los buscadores del hombre prodigio, tal vez el Mesías. Jesús abrazaba, sanaba, liberaba, daba paz y esperanza a todos. Jesús en su ministerio en Cafarnaún y a orillas del lago, es un hombre famoso, un héroe local, tiene a la gente en la palma de la mano. Admiran su enseñanza nueva y nada amenazante, habla con autoridad, hace grandes signos y hasta manda callar a los espíritus que le obedecen. Sus discípulos están encantados, saben que han apostado por el caballo ganador. “Y levantándose muy pronto antes del alba, marchó a un lugar desierto donde oraba”.

Jesús, cuyo nombre iba de boca en boca, cuyo nombre aparecería en el periódico de Cafarnaún, no es el héroe que esperaban. Jesús ajeno al éxito efímero, se retira, se esconde para orar. No vino a triunfar sino a servir. Orar en el silencio. Jesús, hombre muy ocupado, busca la salida de la autopista llamada Oración y en el silencio comulga con la naturaleza y conecta con Dios. Dice Chesterton que Jesús se marchó para poder reír a solas con Dios porque las expectativas de sus seguidores le parecían exageradas y ridículas. Y “al todos te buscan” de Pedro, Jesús responde: Vamos al pueblo siguiente a predicar la Buena Noticia que para eso he venido, ese es el trabajo que Dios quiere que lleve a cabo.

Los hombres tenemos eso que llamamos tiempo libre. ¿Cómo lo llenamos? Tal vez tenga más razón que un santo el diablo y sea él el que llena nuestro tiempo libre con la telebasura, los deportes, los viajes...

Todos los hombres, los creyentes y los no creyentes, en nuestro tiempo libre, deberíamos tener una cita con algo y alguien importante, con algo relacionado con las cosas del espíritu, del alma. El cristiano y el hombre religioso de cualquier denominación, organiza su vida no sólo en la dimensión del trabajo y del dinero sino también en la dimensión de lo que sostiene el alma, citas a solas con Dios y citas con los hermanos en el culto. Aquí, en la iglesia, reorientamos nuestras brújulas, nos alimentamos con el pan de vida y esperanzados consolamos y fortalecemos nuestro espíritu.

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.

MASS SCHEDULE

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

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

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

MONDAY 02/08

8:00 AM

TUESDAY 02/09

8:00 AM

WEDNESDAY 02/10

8:00 AM PARISH PRAYER GUILD

THURSDAY 02/11

8:00 AM + KATHLEEN SAVIANO

FRIDAY 02/12

8:00 AM

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

ATTENDANCE

January 30 - 31

4:00 pm 41

8:00 am 12

10:30 am 53

6:00 pm 16

Total 125

**Weekend of Jan 30,31
2021
Parishioners contributed**

\$ 2,745.00

To the Weekly Collection

***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:

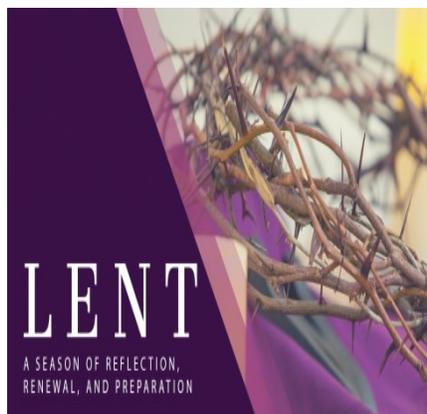
donna.lecam@gmail.com

for the Zoom information.

All are most welcome.

LENT: 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), 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.



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@stmarystcatherine.org.

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

stmarystcatherine.org

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*