



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.

November 28, 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.

The Unexpected Answer



The promise had been long standing, passed from generation to generation. Unimaginable hardships, persecution, exile, and slavery were all part of the story and, still, the promise was recounted and cherished. There would arrive a deliverer, a savior, a messiah, a king of such might all would be resolved and a bright future would be born. This was the story of the suffering Israelite community who longed for the arrival of the Messiah.

Fast-forward more than 2000 years and you and I look out at a fractured world with countless people suffering in nations across the globe. We want to look away and pretend it is not that bad and yet we know otherwise. The world needs help beyond the United Nations or any individual nation although all

people and nations need to be a part of creating a future of hope.

It seems to me there is a parallel between the suffering and longing of the Jewish community of old and our present day reality. Our Creator God knows our human condition intimately and 2000 years ago responded with the answer to our needs and longings with the birth of an infant in an impoverished village called Bethlehem.

The world then and now looks for a temporal solution for modern day crises. We look for presidents, prime ministers, kings, revolutions, generals and armies. While all of that plays a vital role in governance and order, none of that is enough. It never has been and never will be.

The needed solutions come from within and not from without. It is within a faith, a spiritual relationship with our God that each of us can find our footing, our purpose, and a way of living that gives birth to hope. For Christians this is found in Jesus Christ, His teaching, His life, and His friendship.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

John Anthony Volpe

Administrative Assistant

Dianne Ludy

Staff emails are first initial with last name (example, "jsmith@stmarystcatherine.org")

Clergy In Residence

Fr. Jerome Gillespie

Fr. Anthony Nweke C.S.S.p.

Fr. Britto Dhinakaran

Fr. Mark Shimave

Hispanic Ministry

Blanca Paz

Vice Chairs Pastoral Council

Brendan Sullivan

Vice Chair Finance Council

Kevin Walsh

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

This Sunday is the first Sunday of the four-week Advent season that leads us to Christmas. The readings in Sacred Scripture recall the prophecies of old fulfilled in the birth of Jesus. If we listen carefully to the cries of our ancestors 2000 years ago, they are startlingly similar to the longings of this age. We too are desperate and longing for light in our darkness.

For every one of us this is a Kairos moment. Refreshing our relationship with Jesus Christ offers a transformative moment for our own well-being, our family and friends and, in fact, for our world.

Fr. Ronan



Remembering Loved Ones Who Have Gone To God

At all of our Masses on the weekend of December 18 and 19, we will have a Ritual of Remembrance for all of our loved ones who have gone to God. At the conclusion of Mass, you are invited to place one sand dollar in memory of your loved ones on the Parish Christmas tree by the piano, approaching it from the Winthrop Street aisle.

Go to God with all of your sorrows, that He may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you. Be alert and of sober mind. Do not let doubt or any kind of negative thinking overpower you. Resist it, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is under-going the same kind of sufferings. And though it will take time, God of all grace, who called you in Christ, will restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To Him be the power for ever and ever. Amen. (1 Peter 5:6-11-Adapted)



FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Vigil Mass, Tuesday Dec 7 at 6:30PM

Mass on December 8 at 8AM

Masses will be in St. Mary Church



**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
info@stmarystcatherine.org

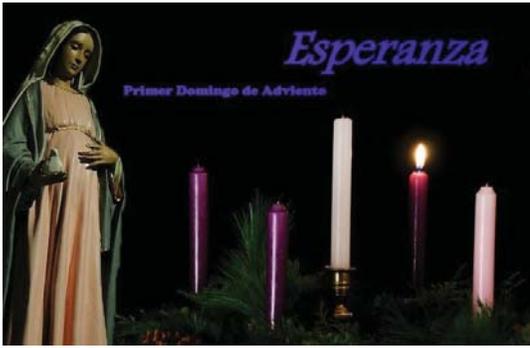
Saint Mary Church
55 Warren Street

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



¿De qué sirve tener los ojos abiertos si el corazón está ciego?

Érase un príncipe que vivía muy lejos de la casa de su padre y lo echaba mucho, mucho de menos. Un día recibió una carta de su padre, se alegró muchísimo y la guardó como un tesoro. Pero la alegría y la dicha que la carta le proporcionó no hicieron más que aumentar su deseo de reunirse con él y se decía: Oh, si sólo pudiera tocar su mano! Oh, si extendiera su mano hacia mí, cómo la abrazaría! Besaría sus dedos con devoción, mi padre, mi maestro, mi luz. Mientras se decía estas cosas un pensamiento iluminó su mente: ¿Acaso no tengo la carta de mi padre escrita de su puño y letra? ¿Acaso no es la letra del rey comparable a su mano? Y una gran alegría invadió su corazón.

La religión judía y la religión cristiana es la religión de la historia y del tiempo. Dios habló y sigue hablándonos a través de los acontecimientos. Y en la Biblia nosotros podemos oír la voz de Dios. Escuchar el yo de los hombres es importante, pero escuchar el YO de Dios es indispensable. Nosotros somos esos hijos de Dios que hemos recibido su carta y que quiere que la leamos porque ilumina no sólo nuestro presente sino también el futuro, el gran final del hombre y de la historia.

Los ladrones no nos dejan una nota anunciándonos la hora y el día de su visita. Dios, sin embargo, nos ha dejado muchas notas, textos codificados, que tenemos que descifrar, y que si los seguimos nos llevan derechitos a la meta. “Habrá signos en el sol, la luna y las estrellas”... Este evangelio se parece muchísimo al telediario de las 9 de la noche. La naturaleza vacila como un borracho. Los icebers viajan sin rumbo por los océanos. Los volcanes escupen fuego y azufre. El cambio climático nos amenaza y nos hace levantar la cabeza. Las calles se vacían y se llenan de tanques y miles de policías buscan al maligno... Los corazones ciegos no sólo no ven a Dios y no oyen su voz sino que no saben interpretar los signos presentes y se niegan a ver a los otros como prójimos y hermanos.

Los signos de los tiempos. Signo de los tiempos es que los hombres se apasionan por todo lo animal y lo humano, pero son ciegos para las cosas de Dios. Sus signos, sus señales no les interesan, no quieren descifrar.

Adviento es tiempo de esperar a Dios. Dios, como el dueño de la ferretería que ha salido a tomar un café y ha dejado una nota en la puerta de su negocio que dice; Vuelvo dentro de 10 minutos, Dios también nos dice: Yo soy el que era, el que es y el que vuelve pronto. Dios vuelve pronto, mejor, está siempre presente, pero hay que saber en qué bar está tomando café. Adviento es mucho más que cuatro semanas de la liturgia. Adviento es siempre. Karl Barth, famosísimo teólogo protestante, tenía en su estudio un cuadro de la crucifixión de Matías Grünewald en el que Juan Bautista señala con su dedo a Jesucristo. Barth, señalando el cuadro, decía a sus visitantes: Yo quiero ser ese dedo. Yo quiero ser un signo que señale la victoria de Cristo.

En esta sociedad en la que vivimos, los hombres ya no miran al cielo, los campanarios ocultos entre los rascacielos ya no son signo de nada, reliquias museísticas, ya no apuntan a la trascendencia. Las luces de neón son los signos de hoy, nada apunta a la trascendencia. La liturgia, este tiempo de Adviento, para los que nos reunimos en el templo es un signo que tenemos que reinterpretar siempre y cada cristiano, como Barth, tendría que decir: Yo quiero ser ese dedo, dedo que apunta al Cristo victorioso, al Cristo que vino, que viene y que vendrá en gloria.

La película de este mundo, como todas las películas, terminará con el famoso The End. Ni a ustedes ni a mí nos interesa saber cuando y cómo será el final de todo, sí nos interesa saber nuestro final que está ya muy cerca. Adviento es tiempo de estar despiertos y de mantenernos en pie ante Jesucristo, dice el evangelio. Tiempo de oración, reflexión y de la siempre necesaria conversión. Tiempo que nos invita a leer la nota que Dios ha dejado en su puerta y a descansar un poco. Nosotros hemos de interrumpir el trájín cotidiano y, con alegría, esperar la Segunda Venida del Señor. No sabemos lo que nos reserva el futuro, pero sí sabemos lo que nos reserva el dueño del futuro.



Coping With Grief During The Holidays

*When you cry, the Beloved hears and comes to you.
The Beloved is ever ready to lighten your heavy hearts,
to ease your burdens, to comfort you in your sorrows.*

When a loved one dies, we begin a journey of healing called the grieving process. This process can be very difficult.

As time goes on and you allow yourself to feel the pain of loss, and with the support of others your grief may lessen. However, when Christmas, a new year, a birthday or an anniversary comes, we feel the absence of our loved ones even more deeply and these holidays may trigger our pain.

If you or anyone you know is grieving, please contact Fr, Ronan or Sister Nancy who are available to support you. They can be reached at 617-242-4664.

The First Sunday of Advent



Advent Begins!

November 28 – December 24

Beginning the Church's liturgical year, Advent (from, "ad-venire" in Latin or "to come to") is the season encompassing the four Sundays (and weekdays) leading up to the celebration of Christmas.

The Advent season is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and to the anniversary of Our Lord's birth on Christmas. From the earliest days of the Church, people have been fascinated by Jesus' promise to come back. But the scripture readings during Advent tell us not to waste our time with predictions. Advent is not about speculation. Our Advent readings call us to be alert and ready, not weighted down and distracted by the cares of this world (Lk 21:34-36). Like Lent, the liturgical color for Advent is purple since both are seasons that prepare us for great feast days. Advent also includes an element of penance in the sense of preparing, quieting, and disciplining our hearts for the full joy of Christmas.

As we prepare for Christmas, the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* notes some differences to the Mass that should be observed during the season. For instance, the priest will wear violet or purple during Advent, except for the Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday) when rose is worn (GIRM, no. 316). Aside from what the priest wears, other aesthetic changes in the Church can include a more modestly decorated altar.

The final days of Advent, from December 17 to December 24, we focus on our preparation for the celebrations of the Nativity of our Lord at Christmas. In particular, the "O" Antiphons are sung during this period and have been by the Church since at least the eighth century. They are a magnificent theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming of Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but of present ones as well.

Advent devotions including the Advent wreath, remind us of the meaning of the season. Our Advent calendar above can help you fully enter into the season with daily activity and prayer suggestions to prepare you spiritually for the birth of Jesus Christ.



Muffins with St. Nick

Sunday 12/5
11:30 am
St. Mary's Church

JOIN US FOR
CHRISTMAS CAROLS,
CRAFTS, MUFFINS
AND ST. NICHOLAS!
PLEASE BRING A SMALL
CONTRIBUTION FOR
HARVEST ON VINE



There are **Christmas Flower envelopes** in the back of the Church for those who would like to make a donation in memory of a loved one. The flowers are placed on the Altar for Christmas. Be sure to include the name of your loved one on the envelope. **Names submitted by Friday, December 17 will be included in the bulletin for Christmas.** All names received after that date will be added to a future bulletin. You may drop the envelope in the collection basket or mail to the Parish Center at 46 Winthrop Street.

Thank you.

CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

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.

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH



When the blessing of the Advent Wreath is celebrated in the home, it is appropriate that it be blessed by a parent or another member of the family.

All make the sign of the cross as the leader says:

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

(R/.) Who made heaven and earth.

Then the Scripture, *Isaiah 9: (lines 1-2 and 5-6) or Isaiah 63 (lines 16-17 & 19) or Isaiah 64 (lines 2-7)* is read:

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

R/. Thanks be to God.

With hands joined, the leader says: Lord our God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ: He is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples, He is the wisdom that teaches and guides us, He is the Savior of every nation.

Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we light the candles of this wreath. May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation. May he come quickly and not delay. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R/. Amen.

USCCB

GIVING TREES!

As is our tradition, your generosity provides Christmas aid to St. Mary Center for Women and Children, Charlestown Recovery House, Veterans Shelter, our Parish's Conference of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society, and Sisters of Saint Joseph Prison Ministry.

Due to COVID restrictions, our giving tree tags request gift cards or monetary donations. Please see specifics below:

- **St. Mary Center for Woman & Children**—please give a gift card.
- **Charlestown Recovery House** - please give a gift card, T-Pass, or Dunkin Donuts gift card.
- **Veterans Shelter** — please give a gift card, T-Pass, or Dunkin Donuts gift card.
- **St. Vincent de Paul Society**— a monetary donation is requested for clients in our Parish who have many different needs, ie. rental assistance, beds, and a myriad of other requests. Checks should be made payable to **St. Vincent de Paul Society.**
- **Sisters of St. Joseph Prison Ministry** - Due to Dept. of Corrections security regulations, monetary donations are requested. The Chaplain will buy needed items such as combs, shampoo, soap, deodorant, calendars, lotion, tooth paste, stationary, and pens which will then be inspected by DOC. Once the items are approved by security, the items will be assembled in gift bags within the prison by Chaplaincy Volunteers. Checks should be made payable to **Sisters of St. Joseph Prison Ministry**

Donations may be placed in the collection baskets at the door. **Please indicate who the donation is for on the outside of the envelope.** Please submit your donations by December 20th for distribution on Monday, the 21st.

MASS SCHEDULE

10:30 AM SUNDAY MASS IS LIVE ON OUR WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK AND ARCHIVED ON FACEBOOK AND OUR WEBSITE FOR FUTURE VIEWING.

SATURDAY 11/27

9:00 AM

4:00 PM + MARY DEVLIN

SUNDAY 11/28

8:00 AM INTENTIONS OF PARISHIONER

10:30 AM + RENE MENARD

6:00 PM + ANNE MARIE COLLINS

ROSARY SAID AT 7:30 BEFORE DAILY MASS

MONDAY 11/29

8:00 AM

TUESDAY 11/30

8:00 AM

WEDNESDAY 12/01

8:00 AM PARISH PRAYER GUILD

THURSDAY 12/02

THANKSGIVING - OFFICE CLOSED

9:00 AM

FRIDAY 12/03

OFFICE CLOSED

9:00 AM

SATURDAY 12/04

9:00 AM

4:00 PM + EMMETT R. PULLIAM, JR.

SUNDAY 12/05

8:00 AM + EVELYN & JIMMY ROY

10:30 AM + JOAN GRACE

MATTARAZZO & THERESA ROACH

6:00 PM + DANIEL & JOAN BLAKE

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 resources. You may also register online at:
www.stmarystcatherine.org



The Church Sanctuary Lamp

is lit for

Anne Marie Collins



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.

Harvest on Vine

While Thanksgiving is certainly a wonderful time to take note of the blessings we have received, it can be a time of stress for many others.

It gives those fortunate enough to do so, the opportunity to offer our support for the good of others.

Every year during Thanksgiving we collect food for our Parish food pantry, Harvest on Vine. This emergency food pantry serves over 300 Charlestown families each month. At Thanksgiving, numbers increase to close to 600.

For a donation of \$35, you can provide a Thanksgiving meal to a family in need.

Harvest on Vine offers a variety of items each distribution. The items greatest in need are:

Rice (1-3 lbs. bags)

Low-sugar cereals

Pasta

Macaroni and Cheese

Thank you for supporting those in need.



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:

**ncit-
ro@stmarystcatherine.org**

UPCOMING COLLECTIONS

Dec 12 - Monthly

Dec 19 - Parish Christmas

Dec 25 - Clergy Benefit



Sacrament of Penance

Saturdays

3:15 pm - 3:45 pm

Or call the office for an appointment
617-242-4664

WOMEN'S FAITH-SHARING GROUP



The women's group meets every other Wednesday, at 6:30pm via Zoom. The group welcomes new participants. It's a wonderful opportunity to nurture your soul and make new friends. Please call Sr. Nancy, if you want to learn more.

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"Jesus Wept." John 11:35

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Interactive Services: ADT Command Interactive Solutions Services ("ADT Command") helps you manage your home environment and family lifestyle. Requires purchase of an ADT alarm system with 36-month monitoring contract ranging from \$45.99-\$59.99/mo. with GSP (24-month monitoring contract in California, total fees ranging \$1,103.76-\$1,439.76), enrollment in ADT EasyPay, and a compatible device with Internet and email access. These interactive services do not cover the operation or maintenance of any household equipment/systems that are connected to the ADT Command equipment. All ADT Command services are not available with all interactive service levels. All ADT Command services may not be available in all geographic areas. You may be required to pay additional charges to purchase equipment required to utilize the interactive service features you desire. General: Additional charges may apply in areas that require guard response service for municipal alarm verification. System remains property of ADT. Local permit fees may be required. Prices and offers subject to change and may vary by market. Additional taxes and fees may apply. Satisfactory credit required. A security deposit may be required. Simulated screen images and photos are for illustrative purposes only.

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Pictured: Msgr. Frank Kelley and Lyndia Downey, President, Pine Street Inn



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Thessalonians 5:17

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Welcoming front porch and outdoor patio; Engaging resident events and activities;
Respite care allows you to take a vacation & your loved ones vacation with us;
Exceptional restaurant-style dining; Daily personal care assistance & so much more.



Zelma Lacey House
Assisted Living Community



Call Tabitha
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