



# St. Mary-St. Catherine Of Siena

## Roman Catholic Parish

Charlestown, Massachusetts ▪ Archdiocese of Boston

[stmarystcatherine.org](http://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.*

December 19, 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.

## TO WONDER



During these December days, Winthrop Square has been filled with every conceivable variety of inflatable Christmas ornaments and figures. Apart from the Santa Clauses and reindeer, Snoopy is over there along with a variety of elves, Grinch himself and lots of snowmen in various sizes and shapes! It is quite a sight to watch the children gawking and giggling as they walk around the square and look at the moving figures, all of which have some kind of animation and lighting.

One of the joys of the season is to observe children as they consider the mystery and the delight of Christmas. All of us love to watch that and in fact, for many of us it is a way to enter into, once again, the loveliness of these days. It seems to me, what we are really observing is the wonder with which children behold and consider not only the Santa Claus and reindeer thing but of course, the beautiful story of the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem.

In our adult world, wonder is not a posture readily found in our everyday repertoire. Our approach to the world around us even our relationships, is often cerebral: analytical, studying, processing, thinking about and working through. To wonder is different from all of that. Wonder is our human instinct for the transcendent, the mysterious that which is beyond readily comprehensible logic. Children are experts at wondering, adults not so much.

Some would say that to wonder is a gift from God and that the capacity to wonder is not self-initiated. Poets, artists, composers and others often can provoke us to wonder and when that happens, it is a beautiful thing! To wonder breaks through the limits of our reasoning; it opens an infinite vista to the more. The Jewish theologian Abraham Hershel once wrote, "The person who never wonders can never find God".

Most of us use the verb to wonder frequently, yet when we do, we are

# FOURTH 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/](http://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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and  
[facebook.com/  
stmarystcatherine](https://facebook.com/stmarystcatherine)

actually doing some kind of a calculation. For example to wonder why the 93 bus is late, is just thinking about the traffic patterns in Sullivan Square or some such. We can also speak of wonder in a much more superficial way when it is simply an expression of curiosity. For example, to wonder how much a gallon of gasoline is costing this week is more mathematics and economics than wondering.

Advent is the perfect time to wonder deeply! To hear the music and lyrics, to listen to the Scripture readings, to pause and closely read the details of our Christmas cards and the messages sent from friends and family; all of this can draw us to the sweet experience of wondering. In truth, we cannot understand what God is doing in our world however; we can grow closer to the truth of God's love and astonishing actions by wondering!

These few days before the celebration of Christmas join me in some quiet wondering about what all this is about and be prepared to be surprised, even delighted by the fruit of such pondering.

Fr. Ronan

## UPDATE ON THE GRAND ANNUAL COLLECTION

Our special Parish faces the usual costs of any small business plus the maintenance of very old and beautiful buildings. Each year at this time, we ask parishioners for assistance to close our operating deficit with a contribution to the Grand Annual Collection. Your response over the years has always been generous and helps to meet our needs. Once again, we ask every family to do your best to respond.

We are very grateful to the approximately 60 parishioners who have contributed **\$55,000.24** to the Grand Annual Collection. We are asking all parishioners who are able to please consider a gift to the Grand Annual Collection. We believe this will yield a balanced budget. There are many ways for you to make contributions!

- A **Paypal button** is now featured on the main page of [stmarystcatherine.org](http://stmarystcatherine.org).
- **Envelopes** are available in Church or the Parish Center.
- Did you know you can donate via **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).
- Please also consider a matching gift through your employers!

If you have questions, please contact James Santosuosso at [jsantosuosso@stmarystcatherine.org](mailto:jsantosuosso@stmarystcatherine.org) or (617) 242-4664.

For all your support and active participation, we are humbled and deeply grateful

**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](mailto: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**



## MARÍA CREYÓ

Lutero dice que Dios hizo tres cosas: Dios se hizo hombre. Una virgen concibió. María creyó. La más difícil y la más grande es María creyó. Se acaba el tiempo de Adviento, todo el tiempo concentrado en cuatro semanas desde el Dios hecho hombre en la primera Navidad hasta el día de la gran final, la segunda venida de Cristo en gloria y majestad. Nosotros vivimos más el Adviento con la vista puesta en el pasado conocido que en el futuro desconocido que es el futuro de nuestra plenificación. Ya cercana la Navidad el evangelio nos invita a contemplar la escena

de la visitación de María a su prima Isabel.

María e Isabel, dos mujeres, y las dos sorprendidas y agradecidas. Dios es el primero que las visita y las bendice con el don de la maternidad. No son dos embarazos normales, la normalidad de Dios nada tiene que ver con nuestra normalidad. María, muy joven, prometida al joven José, no conoce aún varón, pero conoce y es conocida por Dios. María, en su casa y en sus cosas, es visitada por Dios y es invitada a vivir la aventura de la maternidad y de la fe sin entender nada. ¿Cómo puede comprender algo una joven de unos 13 años? El plan de Dios, los caminos de Dios, no caben en la cabeza de María ni en la nuestra. María, pobre e ignorante, se abrió a Dios incondicionalmente y Dios hizo su obra. Todo en la obra de la salvación es obra de Dios.

Isabel, casada con Zacarías, ambos viejos, viven en fidelidad a las promesas y a al Alianza del Antiguo Testamento. Oran y esperan. Dios les bendice con el mejor don para un matrimonio judío, un hijo. María, joven bajo sospecha de pecado e Isabel embarazada de vieja hace el ridículo y sería motivo de más de una broma pesada. Las dos necesitan compartir sus alegrías y sus miedos en la intimidad, lejos de las miradas burlonas y de los comentarios maliciosos en esta visita más terapéutica que teológica. Estas dos embarazadas, ¿de qué hablarían en la intimidad? Vigiladas y blanco de las críticas necesitaban soledad, silencio y comprensión.

El evangelista pone la nota teológica y le da a este encuentro la dimensión religiosa y mesiánica que llega hasta nosotros a través del saludo de Isabel. “Bendita tú entre las mujeres”. Nuestros saludos son más prosaicos y más rutinarios. La imaginación del evangelista nos presenta a Isabel como conocedora no sólo del presente sino también del futuro. María es la mujer elegida y amada por Dios. La mujer que será aclamada a través de los siglos como la madre de Dios a la que saludamos con el mismo saludo de Isabel en el Ave María. El saludo de Isabel se hace más teológico, más profundo y más evocador con el saludo con el que Dios sigue saludando a todos sus hijos: Bendita tú que has creído.

Sólo la fe redime y explica lo inexplicable. Sólo por la fe aceptamos y damos sentido cristiano a las profecías de Isaías y de Miqueas. María es el prólogo y el epílogo de esta historia maravillosa e increíble que da cuerpo al Mesías, Jesucristo. María creyó. Todos necesitamos una caloría de fe al día para seguir celebrando y viviendo el mensaje de la Navidad. La fe es el telescopio que nos acerca lo que está lejos, que agranda lo pequeño y nos lo hace visible. María e Isabel, dos mujeres embarazadas, dos hijos que saltan de alegría en el seno de unas madres que, en la intimidad, hablan de sus cosas, de sus sueños... Termina el Adviento, el sueño que llevamos dentro se hace realidad porque somos soñados por Dios.



## December 19 ~ Fourth Sunday of Advent

The gospel today presents the beautiful story of the Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth. This reading gives us much to ponder – Mary’s concern for and willingness to be present to her older cousin, Elizabeth’s acknowledgement of Mary’s yes to God, her admiration of Mary’s belief in God’s promises. Who are the people you will visit and be with during this Christmas? How might this gospel guide your interactions with them? Pray for the grace to imitate the faith, trust and love of Mary and Elizabeth in your interactions with your family and friends during this Christmas season



### Poem: "Christmas blessing" by Joyce Rupp

*May you give and receive love generously.  
May this love echo in your heart like  
the joy of church bells on a clear December day.*

*May each person who comes into your life  
be greeted as another Christ.  
May the honor given the Babe of Bethlehem  
be that which you extend to every guest who enters your presence.*

*May the hope of this sacred season settle in your soul.  
May it be a foundation of courage for you  
when times of distress occupy your inner land.*

*May the wonder and awe that fills the eyes of children  
be awakened within you.  
May it lead you to renewed awareness and appreciation  
of whatever you too easily take for granted.*

*May the bonds of love for one another be strengthened  
as you gather around the table of festivity and nourishment.*

*May you keep your eye on the Star within you and trust  
this Luminescent Presence to guide and direct you each day.*

*May you go often to the Bethlehem of your heart  
and visit the One who offers you peace.*

*May you bring this peace into our world*

### CHRISTMAS MASSES

**DECEMBER 24: CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES ARE  
3:00 PM;  
5:00PM AND  
7:00 PM**

**DECEMBER 25: CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES ARE  
9:00 AM AND  
11:00 AM**



### healthier priests. stronger communities.

The strength of our communities depends on the well-being of our priests who tirelessly serve others.

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[clergytrust.org](http://clergytrust.org)

— OR —

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via Givebuttr.



Supports our priests in good standing

Each Christmas, the parish collection benefits Clergy Trust which cares for the health and well-being of all active and senior diocesan priests in good standing. By supporting the Christmas collection, you can show your appreciation for the priests who continue to build stronger communities for all through their ministry. This will be the only collection at the Christmas Masses.

**The Parish Christmas** collection will support the Parish, and the works the Parish does at Christmas, and throughout the year. This second collection will be **THIS WEEKEND!**

**Thank you for your continued generosity .**



### Remembering Loved Ones Who Have Gone To God

At all of our Masses this weekend, 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.

### USHERS & GREETERS

With Christmas coming we'll need help with the additional worshippers that will be coming into the Parish for Christmas Eve Family Mass at 5pm, Christmas Day Mass at 9am and 11am. We need Ushers to help with quickly assisting with collection and helping greeters finding seats during mass. If you can help please email Dianne at [dludy@stmaryscatherine.org](mailto:dludy@stmaryscatherine.org) - or call 617-242-4664 Please note which mass you will be able to help with and be willing to be available 15-30 mins prior to mass

# Muffins with Saint Nick!



## 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.

## **Ministry to the Sick and Homebound**

We welcome the opportunity to provide the Sacraments of Confession, Communion or Anointing of the Sick to anyone who is confined to home, either on a short or longer term basis, as we want to do our best to help them feel connected to our community.

Please call us at 617-242-4664 if you, a relative or neighbor is open to having a home visit for some friendly conversation and prayer.

*Especially nice during the Christmas Season*

## **EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION IS OFFERED EVERY FRIDAY FROM 3-5 PM**



IN THE PARISH CENTER CHAPEL,  
46 WINTHROP STREET.

STOP BY FOR A FEW MINUTES OR STAY FOR THE DURATION.



## **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](mailto:ncitro@stmarystcatherine.org)**

## MASS SCHEDULE

**5:00 PM CHRISTMAS EVE MASS**  
IS LIVE ON OUR WEBSITE AND  
FACEBOOK AND ARCHIVED ON FACE-  
BOOK AND OUR WEBSITE FOR  
FUTURE VIEWING.

**SATURDAY 12/18**  
9:00 AM  
4:00 PM SAND DOLLARS

**SUNDAY 12/19 -**  
SAND DOLLARS  
8:00 AM  
10:30 AM + CHRISTINA RYAN  
6:00 PM

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

**MONDAY 12/20**  
8:00 AM

**TUESDAY 12/21**  
8:00 AM

**WEDNESDAY 12/22**  
8:00 AM PARISH PRAYER GUILD

**THURSDAY 12/23**  
8:00 AM

**FRIDAY 12/24**  
**CHRISTMAS EVE**  
8:00 AM  
3:00 PM  
5:00 PM  
7:00 PM

**SATURDAY 12/25**  
**CHRISTMAS**  
9:00 AM  
11:00 AM

**SUNDAY 12/26**  
8:00 AM + JOHN WALSH  
10:30 AM + THOMAS REGAN  
6:00 PM + JOE SCULLARI

### **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.



The Church  
Sanctuary Lamp  
is lit for  
Christina Ryan

And

The Chapel Sanctuary Lamp is  
lit for  
Thomas & Kathleen Broderick

### **ATTENDANCE**

**DECEMBER 11**  
4:00 PM 77

**DECEMBER 12**  
8:00 AM 43  
10:30 AM 116  
6:00 PM 55

**TOTAL 291**



### **Sacrament of Penance**

Saturdays in the  
Church  
3:15 pm - 3:45 pm  
or call the for an  
appointment by dialing  
617-242-4664



*Resquiescat  
in  
Pace*

*Allen Jarasitis*

*Lesley Hauser*

**Weekend of  
December 11 & 12**  
Parishioners contributed  
\$ 5,358.55 to the weekly  
Collection

And

**\$1,278.00 to the monthly  
Collection**

*Thank you for your continued  
support*

### **UPCOMING COLLECTIONS**

Dec 19 - Parish Christmas  
Dec 25 - Clergy Benefit  
Jan 01 - Solemnity of Mary  
Jan 09 - Monthly

### **WINTER 21-22 ALERT**

Dear Friends, in the event of inclem-  
ent weather that necessitates the clos-  
ing of the church, we will post the  
closing on Channel 5, WCVB-TV and  
Channel 7 WHDH and 56 WLVI

Stay warm and  
safe!



**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.***

*We extend a warm welcome to all visi-  
tors and those who are new to our parish.  
If you are new to Saint Mary -Saint Cather-  
ine of Siena Parish, please visit our web-  
site for events and resources. You may  
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online at:  
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