



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 2, 2022

THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX

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.



We all have our way of doing things and looking at situations. Usually, we believe ours is the best way. Honest conversation between friends can include sharing our points of view and trying to persuade another that our vision is more correct than theirs. For example

a couple of guys discussing sports who are avid fans – maybe for opposing teams (i.e. the Bengals vs. the Pats) – loud conversation will follow! Child rearing practices can get us going as well (i.e. let the child decide vs. make the choice for the child). In every case, it takes a bit of patience and openness to hear another's point of view that is very different from one's own (i.e. a republican listening to a democrat and visa-versa).

Today's feast, The Epiphany, is one of those remarkable moments in our history when we are all called to think differently. The deepest meaning of this celebration pushes everyone out of his/her comfort zone to think of God in a new way. Consider the situation: Jerusalem is a big city, nonetheless likely a small town in many ways. The arrival of three very different and important strangers (language, color, dress, customs, foods, etc.) asking questions about a local reality (a newborn king of the Jewish people) evokes attention up to the local king. – *"Who are these people and why on earth would they have traveled so far to this place? And what is this about a king?"*

So uncommon would such an event be that people took notice. We should too. *"From the East, they came"* and to find and pay homage to a newborn King. We read that they followed the star from Jerusalem and found their way to the stable in Bethlehem. In spite of the humble circumstances of the place, they recognized the King and offered their gifts.

God's Son has been born into our world and His purpose and interests are

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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://facebook.com/stmarystcatherine)

not limited by race, color, ethnic background, social class, gender, political position or any other common distinction that differentiates us one from another. The Epiphany insists that you and I think of God as bigger than we usually do. The implications of this thought are significant. For example, all those whom we consider our enemies, may not be God's enemies. The whole philosophy of war and capital punishment, immigration and refugees, gays and straights, rich and poor, and on and on takes on a new perspective in light of the Epiphany. The insistence of Jesus in Mt. 25, "Whatever you do to the least... you do to Me" flows from our understanding of the Epiphany.

An **epiphany** is understood as a moment of new awareness or insight that opens up a fresh way of looking at something. No wonder this beautiful word has been incorporated into our vocabulary. What a great way to start the New Year - with an epiphany on the Feast of the Epiphany!

Fr. Ronan



Heartfelt gratitude to all who were able to decorate our beautiful church for Christmas. Featured in this picture left to right are Maria, Jeanne, Fr. Mark, Nancy (who has the wonderful artistic vision), Shirley, Lauren, and Oscar. Not featured in the picture are: Lynne, John, (our Music Director who also has that creative gift and added the greenery and ribbon that's is weaved across the flowers and added the wreath on the choir loft), James, Jim, and John, who picked up the flowers in Danvers.

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.

In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Thesalonians 5:16-18

**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**



Cuando miramos a nuestro alrededor en esta Navidad, *¿qué encontramos? ¿qué vemos a nuestro alrededor?*

Cuando observamos nuestro entorno en esta Navidad, *¿qué podemos decir sobre lo que se celebra?*

Nuestra ciudad celebra, pero, *¿conoce lo que celebra? ¿celebra lo que la celebración significa? O, ¿celebramos sin celebrar, celebrándonos a nosotros mismos simplemente?*

Puede ser que nuestra ciudad haya perdido la dimensión de la Presencia de lo que se ha manifestado: **“...encontraron al niño con María, su madre...”** Pero no buscamos condenar a nuestra ciudad y su gente, buscamos reconocerla, percibirla en su más pura realidad. Queremos saber con crudeza en que está y como está. Más aún,

necesitamos y nos es imprescindible mirar a nuestro alrededor y observar más allá de nosotros mismos y ver lo que es tal cual es, porque eso mismo está haciendo el Señor.

Somos los profetas de la esperanza, que hemos conocido **“por medio de una revelación como se me dio a conocer este misterio”**. Nosotros mismos hemos sido sorprendidos por una estrella que en medio de la noche brilla y nos conduce: **“Cuando vieron la estrella se llenaron de alegría y, al entrar en la casa, encontraron al niño con María, su madre, y postrándose, le rindieron homenaje.”** Llenos de alegría hemos entrado en la casa de la aceptación y asimilación de un Dios con nosotros que se manifiesta en la pequeñez, que hoy experimentamos en la Palabra proclamada y guardada en el corazón; en la Eucaristía celebrada, comulgada y adorada como presencia viva del Dios Encarnado y Glorificado que nos da Vida en abundancia.

Somos los profetas de la esperanza, que hemos sido sorprendidos por el regalo del don que nos permite ver la estrella que nos guía y vivir la experiencia de los que: **“...encontraron al niño con María, su madre, y postrándose, le rindieron homenaje.”** Encontrar al Niño... Postrarse ante el Niño... Rendirle nuestro homenaje de amor al Niño... Todo un programa de vida espiritual cotidiana. Como los magos de Oriente, hemos recorrido un largo camino sorprendidos por una estrella que nos guía a Jesús recostado en un pesebre en presencia de María. Y como nosotros pudimos hacer la experiencia de esta sorpresa, creemos que otros pueden hacerlo también, porque: **“Este misterio consiste en que también los paganos participan de una misma herencia, son miembros de un mismo Cuerpo y beneficiarios de la misma promesa en Cristo Jesús, por medio del Evangelio.”**

La ciudad y su gente, que celebra sin celebrar el misterio profundo del Nacimiento entre los hombres de Dios en el Niño Jesús, es la ciudad y su gente que necesita de este anuncio, que necesita dejarse sorprender por este anuncio, que necesita la insistencia de este anuncio en medio de la oscuridad. No son los que tienen fe los que necesitan el anuncio de una profecía cumplida, sino el mundo de los hombres sin fe, sin esperanza más que en sí mismos. Es ese mundo cerrado sobre sí mismos y sus preocupaciones, que lejos de querer rendirle homenaje a su Salvador y Rey, tiene segundas intenciones de quitárselo de en medio porque solo podrá reinar uno: o Él o nosotros. Todos somos algo de Herodes, no lo olvidemos. Hay muchos Herodes aún vivos que traman como permanecer en su reinado, que ha sido ocupado por su legítimo heredero, Jesús.

Creativos, prevenidos como los magos de Oriente, los creyentes de esta hora debemos saber continuar el camino. Visionarios y advertidos como los magos de Oriente, los adoradores de esta hora, debemos volver a nuestra tierra cotidiana sin perder esta presencia que hemos encontrado y adorado. Alegrémonos en este día de la manifestación de Dios en el Niño Jesús y dejémosnos llevar por: **“Mira a tu alrededor y observa: todos se han reunido y vienen hacia ti... encontraron al niño con María, su madre, y postrándose, le rindieron homenaje.”** Y a pesar que faltan muchos de los que han sido llamados a dejarse llevar por la estrella de Oriente, lejos de desesperar, fortalecidos por la íntima comunión de Amor con el Niño Jesús y María, celebremos ante la ciudad y sus habitantes la Presencia que se manifiesta y no se oculta ya al que la quiere recibir, enteramente disponible para quien la quiere acoger y quiere entrar en la casa del Evangelio.

Señor Jesús, llévame por tu estrella hasta tu Presencia... Reúne a todos entorno a Ti, que todos vayan hacia Ti y en una unidad inaudita nos alegremos entrando en tu casa.

The month of January is dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus.

"In the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those that are in heaven, on earth and under the earth" (Phil 2:10). Christ's name is chosen in heaven, and the Angel Gabriel announces it when he informs the Blessed Virgin of the incarnation: "Behold thou shalt conceive in thy womb and shalt bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus". It is a name that has marvelous implications, for it means "savior." The very name bespeaks the magnitude of His mission, His infinite love, a love that will cause Him to offer Himself up for us.



January 1 - Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God

Saturday, January 1, 2022 In today's first reading, God bestows three blessings upon Moses and directs him to extend those blessings to others: The Lord blesses you and keeps you. The Lord lets his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord looks upon you kindly and gives you peace. Good stewards realize these blessings are show-

ered upon them in a unique and special way each time they receive the Eucharist, and exercising good stewardship of the Lord's blessings in this sacrament begins by receiving these gifts with profound gratitude. Take time this week to memorize these marvelous blessings and repeat them to yourself frequently. Make them part of your morning prayer each day

A STEWARDSHIP PRAYER for the New Year

Good and gracious God, a new year of grace is upon us, giving us impressions of crisp beginnings new goals, a fresh sense of hope even in these uncertain times.

Though we cling to our own expectations for the year ahead, we know you alone are the sovereign of our future, Lord of our lives, and the source of whatever good we may do.

We thank you, O Lord, for the gift of the days and weeks you have entrusted to us.

Teach us to be good stewards of our time ahead, that we go about our days keeping you at the center of our lives.

In the midst of the current pandemic and the suffering it brings, focus our eyes on the needs of others; help us respond with compassion to the poor; and open our hearts to a suffering world.

We ask for a year of peace, a year that brings an end to hatred, polarization, and the health crisis; and a year where we find a deeper joy that can only be found in you.

We ask this through Christ your Son who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Amen



January 2 ~ The Epiphany of the Lord

The readings today stress the importance of light – *Christ's light*. Isaiah states, ". . . upon you the Lord shines." The Magi followed the light of a

star that led them to Christ, the Lord, an encounter that changed their lives. Do you believe that the Lord looks upon you and shines forth from you? Has each encounter you have had with Christ brought about a change in you, in your way of living? When you humbly and honestly follow Christ and live in his light, "nations shall walk by your light." People will notice something different about you. So on this Epiphany - let your Christ Light shine!

Three gifts used today

Three special presents were carried by the Magi to Bethlehem, but what do we know about them?

Frankincense, also called *olibanum* and *al-lubān*, is an aromatic resin found in the Boswellia tree. The material is valued for its aromatic qualities and has been used in church for thousands of years. Frankincense is also found in medicine, oil, and perfume. While the Frankincense market has existed for millennia, its viability is now threatened by the overharvesting of Boswellia trees, deforestation, and the longhorn beetle.

Myrrh, also called the Balm of Gilead or Balsam of Mecca, is similar to Frankincense but obtained from Commiphora plants. Myrrh is mixed with Frankincense in church. The substance has also been used in salves and liniments, arthritic remedies, perfume, even the embalming of mummies. At one point in ancient economy, myrrh was worth more than gold.

Gold is the most malleable metal in the world. Its resistance to moisture and corrosion has made it the perfect material for currency, jewelry and sacred objects. Gold is found in dental crowns and bridges, high-end CDs, toners, spacecraft, airplane windows, USB cables, semiconductors, and even gourmet dessert.

"The bread that you see on the altar is the Body of Christ as soon as it is sanctified by God's word. The chalice, or better what is contained in the chalice, is the Blood of Christ as soon as it is sanctified by God's word,"
- St. Augustine

Welcome



WEDDING BANNS

I Matthew Lindmark & Lauren Thornton



Adult Confirmation Classes Please Spread the Word

Full adult membership in the Roman Catholic Church is achieved with the reception of the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation. Most Catholics born into our faith receive Baptism as infants and Eucharist in the second grade. Confirmation is often received in the tenth grade. Due to circumstances of all kinds, a significant number of adults have never received the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Maybe... It's Time

To deepen your relationship with God who loves and cares about you.

To re-engage your world again as a Catholic more informed about your faith and its impact in your life.

To re-new yourself and others through the unique power of the Holy Spirit who guides us in Love and Truth.

Candidates 18 years of age or older will attend eight 90-minute classes.

Please contact Sr. Nancy Citro, SND at 617-242-4664 or ncitro@stmaryscatherine.org for additional details and to register for the program.



Thank You

Thank you - to all of those who took time out of their busy holiday schedules, and/or used their talents and treasure to help out with the Christmas activities of Saint Mary - Saint Catherine of Siena Parish.

To those who helped clean and decorate our Church for Christmas - thank you.

To those who picked up the flowers and delivered them to our church - thank you.

For the Advent Wreaths in our Church and chapel - thank you.

For the wreaths that are on the front doors of our Church - thank you

To all of you who pulled a tag from the giving trees or and donated a gift to someone in need. Thank you

To those who so generously donated to Harvest on Vine food pantry - thank you.

To those who helped deliver the gifts - thank you

To all the Altar Servers, Eucharistic Ministers, Greeters, Lectors, Musicians, Singers, and Ushers who assisted in our Liturgies - thank you.

To Mary, Joseph, Baby Jesus, and Santa - thank you.

To all who celebrated Christmas with us, and those travelling who kept us in prayer - thank you

Your generosity is a true reflection of Christ and you are all appreciated very much!

Clergy Health and Retirement Trust

The Christmas collection supports the future wellness needs of our priests. Our parish contribution of \$5,119.00 in honor of the priests in good standing, will have a positive impact on programs that the Clergy Benefit Office is able to provide priests this year. If you did not have the opportunity to make a donation and wish to do so, please visit

clergyfunds.org.

Thank you for your prayers and generous support.

LITURGICAL YEAR 2022

First Sunday of Advent November 28, 2021

Ash Wednesday March 2, 2022

Easter Sunday April 17, 2022

The Ascension of the Lord [Thursday] May 26, 2022

Pentecost Sunday June 5, 2022

The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ June 19, 2022

First Sunday of Advent November 27, 2022

Holy Days of Obligation

May 29, 2022 - The Ascension of Our Lord

August 15, 2022 - The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

November 1 - Solemnity of All Saints (All Saints' Day)

December 8 - The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

December 25 - Christmas, The Nativity of Our Lord

If the Holy Day falls on a Saturday or Monday, the obligation is lifted.

MASS SCHEDULE

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

SATURDAY 01/01

SOLEMNITY OF MARY

9:00 AM

VIGIL MASS OF THE EPIPHANY

4:00 PM + PAT ROONEY

SUNDAY 01/02

THE EPIPHANY

8:00 AM PARISHIONER INTENTIONS

10:30 AM + BETTE McNIFF

6:00 PM

ROSARY SAID AT 7:30 BEFORE DAILY MASS

MONDAY 01/03

8:00 AM

TUESDAY 01/04

8:00 AM

WEDNESDAY 01/05

8:00 AM PARISH PRAYER GUILD

THURSDAY 01/06

8:00 AM

ADORATION AT THE PARISH CENTER 3 TO 5

FRIDAY 01/07

8:00 AM

SATURDAY 01/08

9:00 AM

4:00 PM + CATHERINE KAY

WEBSTER

SUNDAY 01/09

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

8:00 AM

10:30 AM + SARAH FARMER

6:00 PM PARISHIONER INTENTION



**The Church
Sanctuary Lamp
is lit for
Patrick Ryan**

ATTENDANCE

DECEMBER 24

3:00 PM 203

5:00 PM 214

7:00 PM 47

DECEMBER 25

9:00 AM 48

11:00 AM 60

DECEMBER 26

8:00 AM 34

10:30 AM 77

6:00 PM 43

TOTAL 726



Sacrament of Penance

Saturdays in the Church

3:15 pm - 3:45 pm

or call the for an appointment by dialing
617-242-4664

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

Tax Season Coming Up!

Would you like a statement of your Parish contributions? Please email Dianne at dludy@stmaryscatherine.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.

UPCOMING COLLECTIONS

Jan 01 - Solemnity of Mary
Jan 09 - Monthly
Jan 23 - Latin America



WINTER 21 -22 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!

**Weekend of
December 24, 25 & 26
Parishioners contributed**

**\$ 2,683.79 to the weekly
Collection**

And

**\$5,119.00 to the Retired
Clergy Collection**

Thank you for your continued support

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.

*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.stmaryscatherine.org*

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"Jesus Wept." John 11:35

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Thessalonians 5:17

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