

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 27, 2022

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.



My brothers and sisters in Christ:

Advent is my favorite time of year- the world is transforming, and hopes are high- we're all looking forward to things to come. Plans are being made, dreams are shared, and the Scriptures sing of prophets with messages of hope. It's a time of beginnings- and we begin together here in this great town of rich history and cutting-edge hopes for the future. Both parishes have

great histories and traditions (thank you, Frs. Mahoney, Ronan, and Frs. Vin & Ron) and I'm privileged to help write the next chapter of what's ahead.

An introduction, I believe, is in order: My father, Denis, came from Louisburg, Co. Mayo, my mom, Elizabeth, was baptized right round the corner from here at St. Joseph's in Somerville and grew up in Waltham and Newtonville (they met while she was working at Filene's in town).

I grew up the eighth of nine siblings (who I am very close to) in Newton Upper Falls, went to Mary Immaculate of Lourdes parish and through the Newton Public Schools, and entered the seminary in 1982. I was ordained on June 16, 1990, and have served in a variety of places, in city, suburban and even rural parishes.

I am a part of the Vatican II/Pope John Paul II generation, inspired by his call on that rainy day in 1979 in the Boston Common, challenged and en-

First Sunday of Advent

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 call Sr. Nancy at (617) 242-4664.

Pastor Fr. John Sheridan

Pastoral Associate Sr. Nancy Citro, SNDdeN

Finance & Operations 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 Chair Pastoral Council Brendan Sullivan

Vice Chair Finance Council Kevin Walsh

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couraged to minister to all peoples, especially the poor. I am a devoted Bruins fan (I can recite the entire '71-72 roster) and Red Sox fan, and enjoy movies, music, and technology.

I come here as pastor of two parishes with the goal of building a collaborative- something I've done twice before and look forward to being about again- working with staff, councils, and the people of the parishes of Charlestown. I'm already impressed with what I've already seen, and I can't wait to get to it.

The first weekend of Advent marks the beginning of the liturgical year, and the perfect opportunity to start. May our Blessed Mother bless us as we begin together. St. Mary, St. Catherine of Siena, and St. Francis de Sales, pray for us.

Fr. Sheridan

Advent Prayer and Reconciliation Service Thursday, December 15 at 6:30 p.m. in Saint Mary's Church

The Advent Season is an appropriate time of year to reflect on our lives in a Sacramental way, and to engage in special moments of prayer to prepare for a new birth of Christ in our hearts this Christmas season. It's a time to set our course for the New Year!

Let's come together as a community of faith and give ourselves the gift of time to slow down and ponder the many ways in which God blesses and sustains each of us in our daily lives, and longs to grow closer to us with unconditional love.

At the conclusion of the Service, if you choose, you may receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation privately with a priest. We hope you will join us for this extraordinary time of prayer.



The Feast of the Immaculate Conception

We are celebrating the feast on Wednesday, December 7 with a vigil Mass at 6:30 pm in the Church and an 8:00 Mass on December 8 in the Church. It is a Holy Day of Obligation.

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

First Sunday of Advent - November 26/27, 2022



On this first Sunday of Advent Jesus urges his disciples to stay awake and prepare themselves for the Lord's coming. Good stewards prepare themselves and await Christ's judgment in joyous expectation. This attitude requires genuine spiritual maturity, of course; the kind that is cultivated by prayer, participation in the sacraments, loving attention to family and one's communion of faith, and love for one's neighbor. Are we prepared for the Lord's second coming? Are we ready to receive Christ? Are we ready to look joyously for Christ's judgment?

1º Semana de Adviento



En la explicación del sentido de la comparación el aspecto clave es que, por lo imprevisible del diluvio, éste tomó a todos por sorpresa. Con la venida del Hijo del Hombre puede pasar lo mismo: que, dado su carácter imprevisible, tome a todos por sorpresa. Este factor sorpresa es lo que expresan los dos ejemplos gráficos de los dos hombres y las dos mujeres.

Toda la dinámica del texto está encaminada a contrarrestar el factor sorpresa. De ahí la formulación de la consecuencia en términos

de invitación a estar en vela y estar preparados, dos expresiones equivalentes, pertenecientes al campo de la atención y cuyo opuesto es la despreocupación. Entre ambas invitaciones en imperativo (estad) hay una constatación en indicativo, a pesar de que la traducción litúrgica emplee también en este caso el imperativo (comprended). Más bien se trata de la constatación de algo en lo que los interlocutores están de acuerdo para después, en base a ese acuerdo, avanzar con un tipo de argumentación a fortiori. Comprendéis perfectamente que un dueño esté en vela en caso de conocer la hora en que su casa va a ser asaltada. Pues con mucha más razón habrá que estarlo en caso de desconocimiento de la hora, cosa que sucede precisamente con la venida del Hijo del Hombre.

Habría que tener la mentalidad y la psicología reinantes en los ambientes religiosos judíos contemporáneos de Jesús para comprender este texto en todo su significado. En esos ambientes se vivía la espera inminente de un ser divino que pusiera fin al estado de cosas existente. En este sentido se hacían las más variadas especulaciones sin renunciar, sin embargo, a una actitud de espera. Hablar de la imprevisibilidad de la venida, cortar con todo tipo de especulaciones sobre ella, era un auténtico mazazo. Pero su contrapartida podría resultar igualmente peligrosa y contraproducente: de la espera podía caerse en una despreocupación apática.

Es precisamente esta despreocupación la que el texto de hoy quiere combatir con su referencia a los acontecimientos de los que hablan los capítulos 6 y 7 del Génesis y con su apremio a estar en vela y preparados. Se trata, en definitiva, de hacer despertar de la despreocupación, de reavivar un sentido de la historia que podía perderse o que, caso de nuestros días, casi se ha perdido.

Una cosa debe quedar clara: el texto de hoy es una reflexión y una forma de postura sobre la historia y no una referencia a la muerte de las personas y a la preparación moral para afrontar adecuadamente esa muerte. Es urgente liberar a este texto de toda referencia a la muerte y a la preparación al bien morir. La interpretación que fuera por esta línea estaría absolutamente fuera de lugar y contribuiría, además, a atormentar y traumatizar la gente. Esto supuesto, hay que reconocer que el texto está escrito desde un modelo cultural y literario de no fácil comprensión para nosotros. Pero lo importante y duradero no es el modelo, sino lo que en él subyace. Y lo que subyace es una visión gozosa de la historia, porque la desbloquea y la abre al futuro de Dios.

El texto nos invita a vivir sabiendo que Dios es más Dios de lo que le dejamos ser ahora. Hasta el momento las condiciones de nuestro mundo no son las más idóneas para que Dios pueda manifestarse como realmente es. Pero estamos invitados a vivir desde la íntima certeza de que no va a ser siempre así. La razón de la esperanza es ese futuro del Dios que aún desconocemos. Vivir así en la vida es lo que significa estar en vela y preparados.

2021-2022 Parish Financial Report

The Parish Finance Council is pleased to provide the Annual Financial Report of St. Mary-St. Catherine of Siena Parish for fiscal 2021-2022. (A complete set of the financial statements is available on our Parish Website, StmaryStcatherine.org)

We remain extremely grateful for the extraordinary generosity of both our parishioners and the Charlestown community at large. Despite a drop in attendance since the pandemic- down 34% over the last three years- average weekly offertory is up 3%, allowing us to end the fiscal year in a financially stable position with net operating income of \$44,790 as of June 30, 2022. Unfortunately, similar to your own investment accounts, the Parish had an unrealized loss of \$181,688 in our investment accounts. This contributed to a net deficit of \$122,480 for fiscal year 2022.

The primary source of our funds – offertory collections – is up compared to last year. Our total offertory for the fiscal year is \$410,334, about 14 percent higher than the year before. The Grand Annual collection is also 14%, or \$11,787, more than last year. Many of our parishioners have switched to online giving through their online bill pay, the same way you would pay your utility or phone bills. If you have not already done so, please consider donating in this way. Every donation helps ensure a healthy and vibrant parish. Gifts, and especially bequests, are items that can vary significantly from year to year. However, these unplanned items can be critical to the financial success of the parish. This year, we received major one-time gifts and bequests totaling \$106,394. Last year, these items totaled \$86,955. While this represents an increase, these types of gifts cannot be reliably projected for budgeting purposes.

Our community's continuing response to the pandemic is perhaps best illustrated by the incredible support of our most visible ministry, Harvest on Vine Food Pantry. Recognizing that the ongoing economic impact from the pandemic has increased the need for food assistance, our parishioners and other members of the community, along with city and state grants, stepped up and contributed over \$332,124, almost exactly matching the total of \$336,719 from the year before. It is incredibly heartening to see that we, as a Christian community, are truly living the words of the gospel.

Not surprisingly, all major operating expense categories, including the costs associated with the food pantry, increased over 10% in the aggregate over prior year. Your support of our Parish has allowed us to withstand this increase. With inflation still a major factor, your continued support will be critical to enable the Parish to maintain all of its vital ministries.

In 2020, we completed the interior painting and restoration of our beautiful church. This undertaking was our largest capital project in recent years. The initial phase of the Inspiring Hope campaign raised most, though not all, of the funds necessary for the restoration. In addition, because many campaign pledges extend over a 5-year period, we obtained a loan from the Archdiocese to ensure that we could complete the project on time. We are thankful to report that based on the continued pledges, and the use of funds from our savings, we have paid off the loan early. The remaining payments to this campaign will reimburse the funds transferred from savings, and allow the Parish to pursue various accessibility enhancements to our beautiful Church. If you have not had an opportunity to contribute to this magnificent project, please consider a gift at this time with a notation of – Painting.

This past June saw our beloved Pastor, Fr. Ronan retire. Without his leadership for the past 18 years, we would surely not be in the position that we are currently in. We look forward to welcoming Fr. Sheridan and continuing to build this tremendous faith community.

Normally at this time, the Parish is in the middle of its Grand Annual collection. The decision was made to move this to the spring. However, for tax reasons, parishioners may wish to make their contributions before the end of the calendar year. Such early contributions are both welcomed and deeply appreciated.

The Parish Finance Council is deeply appreciative of your support, especially this year when many people experienced financial hardships. Even with the rising costs of insurance, utilities, and the overall cost of goods and services, our budget for 2022-2023 is projected to break-even. In order to make that happen, we would earnestly ask that you consider increasing the level of your financial commitment to the Parish so we can maintain a balanced operating budget while continuing all of our Parish ministries that help so many in our community. Stay safe and well.

Parish Finance Council

Fr. John Sheridan (chair), Kevin Walsh (Vice chair), Alexandra Cook, Brian Fleming, Dennis Hanson, Nancy Higgins, Maureen Moore, Tom Mosel, James Santosuosso (Ex-officio)

St. Mary - St. Catherine of Siena	Balance Sheet
as of June 30, 2022	Actual
Assets	
Cash & Cash Equivalents	
Checking Accounts	\$60,214
Depository at RCAB	226,631
Total Cash & Cash Equivalents	286,845
Total Prepaid Expenses	3,356
Investments	805,113
Total Assets	\$1,095,314
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$7,629
RCAB Second Collections	10,288
Total Liabilities	17,917
Net Assets	
Unrestricted Net Assets Beginning of Year	1,199,878
Current Net Income	(122,481)
Total Net Assets	1,077,397
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$1,095,314

2021-2022 Summary

Total Revenue	\$1,017,021
Total Expenses	<u>\$972,231</u>
Net Operating Income	\$44,790
Capital Campaign Income	\$151,478
Unrealized Investment Loss	\$181,688
Church Capital Expenditures	\$137,060
Net Deficit	\$122,480

In addition, our parishioners contributed \$25,253 to special collections benefiting retired priests of the Archdiocese, Retired Religious Women, the Propagation of the Faith and other second collections.

Income

Offertory \$410,334

- Sunday Offertory
- Monthly
- Grand Annual
- Fuel / Insurance

Rental Income... \$112,697

- Good Shepherd School
- Unassigned Priest room and board

Other Income ... \$118,134

Miscellaneous

- Gifts / Bequests
- Catholic Appeal Rebate
- Religious Education Fees

Sacramentals ... \$43,732

- Baptisms
- Funerals
- Memorial Masses
- Weddings
- Flower offerings

Food Pantry ... \$332,124

All donations made to Harvest on Vine Food Pantry

Compensation...\$424,017

- Clergy
- Lay Staff
- Health and benefits

Pastoral/Liturgical... \$31,958

- Altar Supplies
- Music
- Books
- Flowers
- Missalettes
- Envelopes
- Pilot Newspaper

Expenses

Office Expenses ... \$31,293

- Office supplies
- Rental Equipment
- Phone / Internet
- Postage

Food Pantry ... \$201,252

- Food Cost
- Salary & benefits
- Utilities & maintenance

Facilities \$176,070

Utilities

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- Insurance
- Maintenance
- Snow Removal

Household \$34,987

- Food / supplies for church functions
- Rectory food

Miscellaneous \$72,654

- Support for Archdiocese
 - Miscellaneous

Capital Income \$ 151,478

Capital Campaign

Unrealized Investment Loss \$181,688

Capital

Capital / One-time Expenses \$137,060

- Church Painting
- Roof Repairs
- Interest on Loan

MASS SCHEDULE

10:30 Am Mass is live on our Website and Facebook and archived on Facebook for future viewing

SATURDAY 11/26 9:00 am 4:00 pm Veterans & their families

ADVENT BEGINS

Sunday 11/27 8:00 am 10:30 am + Thomas & Marie Muldoon; Beatrice Muldoon And Bob & Eleanor Emery 6:00pm Parishioner Intentions

Rosary said at 7:30 before the Daily Mass

Monday 11/28 8:00 am

TUESDAY 11/29 8:00 AM

WEDNESDAY 11/30 8:00 AM

Thursday 12/01 8:00 am

FRIDAY 12/02 8:00 AM

Saturday 12/03 9:00 am 4:00 pm + Emmett R Pulliam, Jr.

SUNDAY 12/04 8:00 AM 10:30 AM + Evelyn, Ray & Jimmy Roy - Smith 6:00pm + Deceased members of the James P. Collins Family

• SACRAMENT OF PENANCE IS ON SATURDAYS FROM 3:15 TO 3:45 PM

To learn more and/or become involved contact us at 617-242-4664 or check out the web site! <u>stmarystcatherine.org</u>



The Church Sanctuary Lamp Is lit for Rene Menard

UPCOMING COLLECTIONS

December 11 - Monthly December 18 - Parish Christmas Gift

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS!

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 16 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.

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 the 21st.

For Baptisms - contact Sr. Nancy at: 617-242-4664 or email: ncitro@stmarystcatherine.org
Ministry to the Sick and Homebound - Call the office at: 617.242.4664
Sat. Rosary via Zoom. email Donna at: donna.lecam@gmail.com



For Advertising call 617-779-3771

Saint Mary & Saint Catherine of Siena, Charlestown, MA 4898



For Advertising call 617-779-3771

Pilot Bulletins

Saint Mary & Saint Catherine of Siena, Charlestown, MA