



# 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 11, 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.

As children, we all loved to be surprised- whether a visit from a beloved family member or if we received a surprise gift, we lived in joyful hope that life would send us on another adventure. As we grew older, we grew less fond of those surprises and became afraid of the unexpected, our hearts hardened by our previous experiences. There are people all around us who live unafraid of the challenges and opportunities that wait around us- these are the people who truly discover that though it can seem difficult, there is much to be treasured, enjoyed, and looked forward to- those are truly happy people in our world- who discover the presence of Christ every day.

This time of year is a time for the unexpected- a time to discover the presence of God in our midst and allow ourselves to be thrown off course a bit and discover something we've missed. In all the hype of this season, the lights, colors, and chaos, may hearts search for the Christ Child present in the people, places, and moments we least expect, and truly rejoice in finding Him, at Christmas and every day of our lives!

### A few cinematic suggestions for the Season

As we make our way through these Advent days, it's easy for us to miss so many ways to make them meaningful- to dwell in the mystery of this holy season. Please take time with loved ones to get inspired!

For the adults, the beautiful *The Nativity Story* (2006) is a work of cinematic art- it seems as if you are walking with Mary and Joseph on their way to Bethlehem. It is moving and carefully done.

For the kids, the animated film *The Star* is well done, though there is a lot of unnecessary fiction that pads the story. The depiction of Mary is meaningful, and the music is excellent!

For the whole family, it's hard to beat the *Muppets' Christmas Carol*- charming in a number of ways. Michael Caine is superb as Ebenezer Scrooge, Kermit the Frog as Bob Cratchit and with the whole Muppet family, is funny and warm- with Gonzo as a very accurate, may I add, narrator, it's very smart!

Fr. John

*Third Sunday of Advent—Gaudete Sunday!*

## 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** 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@stmaryscatherine.org")*

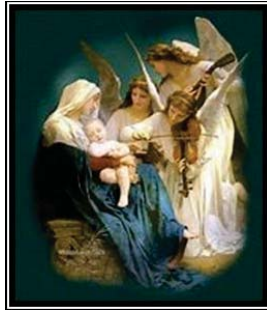
**Clergy In Residence**  
Fr. Jerome Gillespie  
Fr. Anthony Nweke C.S.S.p.  
Fr. Britto Dhinakaran  
Fr. Mark Shimave

**Hispanic Ministry**  
Blanca Paz

**Vice Chair Pastoral Council**  
Brendan Sullivan

**Vice Chair Finance Council**  
Kevin Walsh

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**ST. MARY ST. CATHERINE SIENA**  
**&**  
**FRIENDS OF THE CHARLESTOWN LIBRARY**  
**CHRISTMAS CONCERT WITH THE**  
**SPECTRUM SINGERS**  
**DECEMBER 11, 2022 @ 3:00 PM**  
**RIGHT HERE IN THE UPPER CHURCH**

## **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.

## **ANNUAL PARISH CHRISTMAS COLLECTION** **WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 17/18**

Each year, the Parish Christmas Collection is scheduled for the fourth week of Advent as the Christmas Day collection is scheduled for the Clergy Benefit Trust, supporting the health care needs of retired and infirmed priests in good standing in the Archdiocese of Boston.

The Parish Christmas Collection helps support the ministries and other operating costs of the Parish. We understand that there are competing demands on your limited resources. We ask that you be as generous as is possible for you and if we all do the best we can, it will all work out. We truly are grateful to each of you, our devoted parishioners, who help make this community an ongoing place of welcome and spiritual nourishment.

May your Christmas be a blessed and joyous one and may the new year be filled with good health, peace, and a deepened faith in the One who makes all things possible.

**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@stmaryscatherine.org](mailto:info@stmaryscatherine.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**

## December 11 ~ Third Sunday in Advent ~ Gaudete Sunday

They that wait upon the *Lord*  
shall renew their strength

Today's second reading from the letter of Saint James is only four verses that are packed with meaning and encouragement. The words "patient" or "patience" appear four times. What we await is the coming of the Lord and that demands our patience – a message that is counter to what businesses and media project at this time of year. So, take the time today to listen to the message in our scripture assuring us that Jesus will come - even if all the shopping and tasks are done or not - so be patient! Each time you feel impatience building in your

heart this week pause and remember that Christ is with you and repeat a few times "God, grant me patience." That is a gift that we can all use, and it is priceless!



Un profesor de universidad, al principio de curso quiso sorprender a sus nuevos alumnos y les dijo: voy a demostrarles que Dios no existe. Miró al cielo y gritó: Dios, si existes, quiero que me derribes de un golpe de esta plataforma. Te doy diez minutos. La clase entera permaneció en silencio. Se podía oír la respiración de los alumnos. El profesor gritó de nuevo: Aquí me tienes. Te estoy esperando. Cuando faltaban dos minutos entró en el aula un estudiante alto y musculoso, caminó hasta la plataforma del profesor y le dio tal golpe que cayó rodando de la plataforma. El estudiante se sentó en la primera fila en medio de un gran silencio.

Cuando el profesor se recuperó del golpe y volvió a su plataforma miró al joven y le dijo: ¿Por qué me pegó? Dios está muy ocupado y me envió a mí a cumplir su deseo. Segundo domingo de Adviento y Fiesta de la Inmaculada. Dos fiestas que requieren nuestra atención nuestro interés por las cosas de Dios. Yo no sé si Dios está muy ocupado, pero sí sé que cada domingo nos envía a alguien para darnos el golpe de gracia que nos haga salir de nuestra indiferencia y de nuestra frialdad. Hoy, Dios nos envía a dos predicadores para recordarnos que existe y que vino, viene y vendrá. Adviento no es "la Navidad ya está cerca". Adviento es "Cristo viene. Cerca está el Reino de Dios". Adviento es preparar la venida de Jesús. A Él le toca completar la obra.

Juan Bautista, estrafalario en su atuendo, en su aspecto y en su dieta, es más estridente aún por su mensaje. Es un predicador poco simpático y no gusta a casi nadie. Es la voz que predica la conversión y el arrepentimiento. Es el último profeta que viene a denunciar e insultar a todos pero especialmente a los profesionales de la religión. La gente sencilla confesaba sus pecados y él los bautizaba en el río Jordán. Los profesionales de la religión, los fariseos y los saduceos, los que presumen de tener a Abrahán por padre, los que ya no esperan a nadie, los que parecen santos pero son sólo cumplidores de la letra muerta, los que se creen salvados por servir y guardar el tinglado religioso, a estos Juan los insulta, les llama "raza de víboras", "árboles con el hacha a la raíz", "paja para la hoguera". Estos profesionales de la religión, más por curiosidad que por devoción, acudieron a escuchar al nuevo predicador al aire libre predicar el mensaje de arrepentimiento y de la necesaria conversión, conversión que todos necesitamos y que nunca conseguimos del todo. Yo sé que todos ustedes son más consumidores de religión que pecadores que quieren arrepentirse de verdad este Adviento.

Sabemos que los profesionales de la religión, fariseos y saduceos, siguieron cumpliendo fielmente con la religión, pero ignoraron lo nuevo, al que es siempre nuevo, a Jesús, el que traía el Reino de Dios, el fuego del Espíritu que todo lo hace nuevo. A nosotros, los aquí reunidos, nos llama pecadores, palabra que ya no suena a insulto y no nos molesta porque hemos perdido el sentido del pecado, porque la palabra pecador y otras palabras religiosas han perdido su fuerza y la propaganda nos ha anestesiado. Lo único que nos preocupa es cumplir con la calderilla de la religión y seguir viviendo como si nada pasara. Hoy, fiesta de la Inmaculada, María y Juan Bautista son personajes centrales y necesarios en este magnífico escenario del Adviento. María no es la voz que grita, María es la joven que escucha la Palabra del mensajero de Dios, la joven que dice sí a la llamada de Dios. Dios llama a una joven ordinaria a una tarea extraordinaria.

Dos personajes muy distintos, pero los dos necesarios. Ambos conectados íntimamente con Cristo. Estoy convencido de que María nos cae mejor que Juan Bautista. María es fe, obediencia, servicio, discípulo, contemplación, mientras que Juan es grito, ira, fuego, denuncia, atrevimiento liberador que nos asusta a los cristianos. Olvídense de la religión y conéctense con Cristo, esto es el Adviento.



## December in Our Parish

**December 11:** Christmas Concert at 3:00 pm

**December 15 @ 6:30 pm:**  
Advent Prayer and Reconciliation Service

**December 17/18: All Masses** - Remembering Our Loved  
Ones Who Have Gone to God

**December 24: Christmas Eve Mass @ 4PM, carols @3:30**

**December 25: Christmas Masses @ 8am, and 10:30am**

**January 1:** Solemnity of Mary

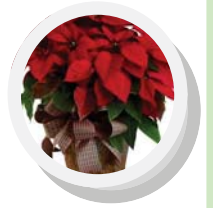
## ALL HANDS ON DECK!

The Parish could use some helping hands to clean the interior of St. Mary's Church for Christmas on  
**Saturday, December 17 at 9:00 a.m.**

**AND**

On **Friday, December 23 at 9:00 AM**, we will be  
decorating the Church for Christmas.

For those who are interested in helping, please let us know! Coffee will be available! If you can spare some time, please let us know at 617-242-4664 or email



Alessia Caroline Byrne

Baptisms in our Parish  
Welcome to our newly  
baptized  
parishioners!



Audrey McKinnon Shores



Isla Rose Demas



Drew Kathryn Murray



Abigail Catherine Switchenko

*Welcome*



Rocco George Albanese



Sophia August Huxley





## Remembering Loved Ones Who Have Gone To God

At all of our Masses on the weekend of December 17 and 18, 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)*



### MASS SCHEDULE

**10:30 AM MASS IS LIVE ON OUR WEB-SITE AND FACEBOOK AND ARCHIVED ON FACEBOOK FOR FUTURE VIEWING**

**SATURDAY 12/10**

**9:00 AM**

**4:00 PM + JOAN GRACE MATARAZZO & THERESA ROCHE**

**SUNDAY 12/11**

**8:00 AM + GERALD WALL**

**10:30 AM + CHRISTINE RYAN**

**3:00PM - CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

**6:00PM + JOAN & DAN RYAN**

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

**MONDAY 12/12**

**8:00 AM + SARAH FARMER-WILLIAMS**

**TUESDAY 12/13**

**8:00 AM**

**WEDNESDAY 12/14**

**8:00 AM**

**THURSDAY 12/15**

**8:00 AM**

**6:30PM ADVENT PRAYER & RECONCILIATION SERVICE**

**FRIDAY 12/16**

**8:00 AM**

**SATURDAY 12/17**

**9:00 AM**

**4:00 PM + JOE SCULLARI**

**SUNDAY 12/18**

**8:00 AM + THOMAS & KATHLEEN BRODERICK**

**10:30 AM + THOMAS REGAN**

**6:00PM + LESLEY HAUSER**

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



The Church  
Sanctuary Lamp  
Is lit for

Maryann & Patrick  
Ryan Family

And

The Chapel Sanctuary Lamp  
Is lit for

Sarah Farmer- Williams

### **ATTENDANCE**

**DECEMBER 4**

**4:00 PM 58**

**DECEMBER 5**

**8:00 AM 53**

**10:30 AM 107**

**6:00 PM 110**

**TOTAL 328**

### **ADVENT FAITH SHARING GROUP**

A Faith Sharing Group for Advent will begin meeting on Tuesday November 29 and continue each Tuesday through Advent. Meetings will take place after the 8 AM Mass in St Catherine of Siena Chapel. We will be reflecting on the Advent Gospels. All are warmly invited to any or all of the meetings

### **UPCOMING COLLECTIONS**

December 11 - Monthly

December 18 - Parish Christmas

December 25 - Clergy Benefit

January 8 - Monthly

### **Parish Giving**

**Weekend of Dec 4th and 5th-  
Parishioners contributed**

**\$4,795-55**

**To the Weekly Collection**

***Thank you for your  
continued support***

**Sacrament of  
Penance  
at the Church**

**Saturdays -**

**3:15 pm to 3:45 pm**



**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 home bound, 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.

### **SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY**

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SCHEDULE A MEMORIAL MASS OR LIGHT A SANCTUARY CANDLE FOR A LOVED ONE, PLEASE CALL

THE  
PARISH CENTER AT 617.242.4664

***To learn more and/or become  
involved contact us at  
617-242-4664 or check out the web  
site!  
[stmarystcatherine.org](http://stmarystcatherine.org)***

***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:  
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