

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.

December 18, 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 embrace our lives of service and compassion.

Message from our Pastor

I took my tree down to the shore, the garland, and the silver star... to find my peace and grieve no more... to find some peace inside my heart. On every branch I laid some bread, and hungry birds filled up the sky. they rang like bells around my head, they sang my spirit back to life. One tiny child can change the world, one shining light can show the way... through all my tears for what I've lost, there's still my joy for Christmas Day.

From There's Still My Joy, written by Melissa Manchester and Carole Bayer Sager

This past week has been difficult for so many in our Town- we had four funerals- and I hope that the warmth that Christmas will bring will give us hope to look ahead to the promise of eternal Christ bring us. I urge you as we turn the corner and look ahead to find the light present in the memories of all those we remember and the light shining in the eyes of expectant children and all people who look with joyful hope for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Next week the bulletins of St. Mary- St. Catherine and St. Francis will be combined- I want to stress that this is not a merging of the parishes- this is a way to facilitate a closer relationship- I believe that it will prove to be a convenient and helpful way to share information. Soon we will be recasting our Mass schedule- daily and weekend- to make it more accessible for everyone.

I hope you will encourage your neighbors and friends to join us for Christmas Masses at our Churches. Though we're all too aware that the Covid nightmare we've been walking through isn't over yet by a long shot, the numbers of folks coming week after week to our churches I pray give us all a sense of hope and optimism, and my prayer is that it will continue to grow beginning this holy season and throughout the coming year.

As we rejoice in the season of light, we pray for our Jewish brothers and sisters, who mark the joyous season of Chanukah, as they struggle throughout our country with a troubling surge of antisemitism. May we speak out through our words and actions in defense and love of our sisters and brothers.

Fourth 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

Visit us at stmarystcatherine.org and facebook.com/ stmarystcatherine

S DE ON TO SERVICE DE O

You Need To Know

Thank you from St. Vincent de Paul

Saint Vincent de Paul is a global charity network that now operates in 142 countries. In the United States, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul comes to the aid of 12 million people annually. Vincentians come from all walks of life to help the

poor meet their needs both spiritually and materially.

Our Parish Conference began in 1876 under the auspices of Monsignor McMahon and supplied shoes for children and offered food to the unemployed. Currently, the St. Mary – St. Catherine of Siena conference, a team of about 12 parishioners, handles a variety of issues every week. Some people need help with the rent, while others are in need of beds for the kids. Clients are also informed about Masses and programs at St. Mary-St. Catherine of Siena Parish.

To date for the year 2022, we have assisted 44 families who were helped in exactly this way. Beds and other furniture items were purchased or rental assistance was given. Each family is in need for different reasons, but in need nonetheless. The total spent for these families in 2022 was \$31,415.92! Monetary donations from our parishioners allow the conference to help defray the costs to help these families. The cycle of charity has a resounding effect.

Also, this year, our parish St. Vincent de Paul participated in a towel drive for the Parish emergency food pantry, Harvest on Vine. With the help and dedication of our parishioners and our community, it was a very successful towel drive!

We would like to thank all those who helped make these things possible. May God bless you abundantly for your generosity to those in our community who are in need of assistance. Thank you.

"The poor have much to teach you. You have much to learn from them." – St. Vincent de Paul

A STEWARDSHIP PRAYER for December

Come, Lord Jesus! Make us good stewards of Advent. Strengthen our faith; calm our fears.

Come, Lord Jesus! We hear John the Baptist's cry. Open our hearts. Give us humility to repent.

Come, Lord Jesus! Let us walk in your light! Show us how we prepare your way and make straight your paths.

Come, Lord Jesus! We give you thanks and praise, for the shining star and angelic host, for Mary and Joseph, good stewards, both.

Come, Lord Jesus! We rejoice and are glad! For the Good News you bring And God's glory you revealed.

Come, Lord Jesus! Amen

Icsc December 2022 bulletin

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**



El nacimiento de Jesucristo fue de esta manera

Hay algo que une las tres lecturas de este domingo: en cada una se habla de un nacimiento: «He aquí que una Virgen está encinta y va a dar a luz un hijo, y le pondrá por nombre Emmanuel, Dios-con-nosotros» (I lectura); «Jesucristo... nacido de la estirpe de David, según la carne» (II lectura); «El nacimiento de Jesucristo fue de esta manera...» (Evangelio). ¡Podríamos llamarlo «domingo de los nacimientos»!

Es inevitable plantearse inmediatamente la pregunta: ¿por qué nacen tan pocos niños en Italia y en otros países occidentales? El principal motivo de

la escasez de nacimientos no es de tipo económico. Los nacimientos deberían aumentar a medida que se camina hacia las franjas más elevadas de la sociedad, o según se va del Sur al Norte del mundo, y en cambio sabemos que ocurre exactamente lo contrario.

El motivo es más profundo: es la falta de esperanza, con lo que implica: confianza en el futuro, impulso vital, creatividad, poesía y alegría de vivir. Si casarse es siempre un acto de fe, traer al mundo un hijo es siempre una acto de esperanza. Nada se hace en el mundo sin esperanza. Necesitamos de la esperanza como del aire para respirar. Cuando una persona está a punto de desmayarse, se grita a quienes están cerca: «¡Dadle aire!». Lo mismo se debería hacer con quién está a punto de dejarse ir, de rendirse ante la vida: «¡Dadle un motivo de esperanza!». Cuando en una situación humana renace la esperanza, todo parece distinto, aunque nada, de hecho, haya cambiado. La esperanza es una fuerza primordial. Literalmente hace milagros.

El Evangelio tiene algo esencial que ofrecer a nuestra gente, en este momento de la historia: la Esperanza con mayúsculas, virtud teologal, o sea, que tiene por autor y garante a Dios mismo. La esperanzas terrenas (casa, trabajo, salud, el éxito de los hijos...), aunque se realicen, inexorablemente desilusionan si no hay algo más profundo que las sustente y las eleve. Miremos lo que sucede con la tela de araña; es una obra de arte, perfecta en su simetría, elasticidad, funcionalidad, tensa desde todos los puntos por hilos que tiran de ella horizontalmente. Se sujeta en el centro por un hilo desde arriba, el hilo que la araña ha tejido descendiendo. Si uno desprende uno de los filamentos laterales, la araña sale, lo repara rápidamente y vuelve a su sitio. Pero si se rompe ese hilo de lo alto, todo se distiende. La araña sabe que no hay nada que hacer y se aleja. La Esperanza teologal es el hilo de lo alto en nuestra vida, lo que sustenta toda la trama de nuestras esperanzas.

En este momento en que sentimos tan fuerte la necesidad de esperanza, la fiesta de Navidad puede representar la ocasión para una inversión de marcha. Recordemos lo que dijo un día Jesús: «Quien recibe a un niño en mi nombre, a mí me recibe». Esto vale para quien acoge a un niño pobre y abandonado, para quien adopta o alimenta a un niño del Tercer Mundo; pero vale sobre todo para los padres cristianos que, amándose, en fe esperanza, se abren a una nueva vida. Muchas parejas que, cuando se anunció el embarazo, se han visto por un momento llenas de confusión, estoy seguro de que sentirán que pueden hacer propias las palabras de la profecía navideña de Isaías: «¡Acrecentaste el gozo, hiciste grande la alegría, porque un niño nos ha nacido, un hijo se nos ha dado!».

Oh Come, Oh come Emmanuel



December 18 ~ Fourth Sunday in Advent

Our Advent readings continue to offer us great hope: "the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel." This name means "God is with us." What an important truth for us to remember, especially as the world chases us to move faster – to do more, to shop more, to buy more. It is a challenge to hold onto the hope-filled message of these scriptures and not let the noise of the world drown it out. Amid your busy schedule this week, repeat these

words - "...they shall name him Emmanuel - which means God is with us." Take comfort. . . God is with YOU!



On December 11th, St. Mary - St. Catherine Siena had a Christmas concert featuring the Spectrum singers.

Just a few pics of the event that was well attended and well received.

Thank you to all





CHRISTMAS MASSES

DECEMBER 24: CHRISTMAS EVE 3:00 PM; SING ALONG 4:00 PM; MASS - THIS MASS

WILL BE LIVE STREAMED

DECEMBER 25: CHRISTMAS DAY 8:00 AM 10:30 AM



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



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.



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. Usually, Confirmation is 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 seven 90-minute classes. Please contact Sr. Nancy Citro, SNDdeN at 617-242-4664 or ncitro@stmarystcatherine.org for additional details and to register for the program.

Clergy Trust Collection - Christmas Day

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.

LOW GLUTEN ALTAR BREAD

If you require a low gluten host for communion, please let the priest who is celebrating Mass know, and he will give you the consecrated low gluten host.

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

Sacrament of Penance at the Church

Saturdays -

3:15 pm to 3:45 pm

USHERS & GREETERS

With Christmas coming we'll need help with the additional worshipers that will be coming into the Parish for Christmas Eve Family Mass at 4pm, Christmas Day Mass at 8am and 10:30am. We need Ushers to help with quickly assisting with collection and helping greeters finding seats during mass. If you can help please email dludy@stmarystcatherine.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.



Remembering Loved Ones Who Have Gone To God

At all of our Masses this 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.

ANNUAL PARISH CHRISTMAS COLLECTION WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 17/18

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.

MASS SCHEDULE

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

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

ROSARY SAID AT 7:30 BEFORE THE DAILY MASS

MONDAY 12/19 8:00 AM TUESDAY 12/20 8:00 AM

WEDNESDAY 12/21 8:00 AM

THURSDAY 12/22 8:00 AM

FRIDAY 12/23 8:00 AM

SATURDAY 12/24 CHRISTMAS EVE

9:00 AM 3:30 PM - SING ALONG 4:00 PM (LIVE STREAMED)

SUNDAY 12/25 CHRISTMAS

8:00 AM 10:30 AM

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



The Church Sanctuary Lamp Is lit for

Thomas Regan Family

And

The Chapel Sanctuary Lamp
Is lit for
Maureen Dowey

ATTENDANCE

DECEMBER 10 4:00 PM 107

DECEMBER 11 8:00 AM 39 10:30 AM 129 6:00 PM 35

TOTAL 305

CONCERT - DECEMBER 11 3:00 PM 261

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
DECEMBER 7
6:30 PM 30
DECEMBER 8
8:00 AM 45

TOTAL 75



Resquiescat in Pace Irene Morey

Michael Keigney and Maryann Wrenn

Parish Giving

Weekend of Dec 4th and 5th-Parishioners contributed

\$5,316.26

To the Weekly Collection

And

\$1,001

To the Monthly Collection

And

\$389

December 8th Collection

Thank you for your continued support

UPCOMING COLLECTIONS

December 18 - Parish Christmas December 25 - Clergy Benefit January 8 - Monthly



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.

To learn more and/or become involved contact us at 617-242-4664 or check out the web site!

stmarystcatherine.org



WINTER 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.

For daily Masses: if Boston Schools are closed, the Church will be closed and there will be no Masses on those days.

Stay warm and safe!







bath, or enjoy a convenient refreshing shower while seated or standing with Safe Step Walk-In Tub's FREE Shower Package!

✓ First walk-in tub available with a

- ✓ Fixed rainfall shower head is adjustable for your height and pivots to offer a seated shower option
- ✓ High-quality tub complete with a comprehensive lifetime warranty on the entire tub
- √ Top-of-the-line installation and service, all included at one low, affordable price

Now you can have the best of both worlds-there isn't a better, more affordable walk-in tub!

> Call today and receive a **FREE SHOWER PACKAGE**

PLUS \$1600 OFF

FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Call Toll-Free 1-855-408-5943





Call Today for Your Free Shower Package

Donate Your Vehicle Call (844) 518-0031 to donate your car, truck, boat, RV, and more today!

How it Works:







1 Contact Us Call (844) 518-0031

We'll pick up your vehicle for FREE -at a time and place convenient for you

3 Receive Tor

You may qualify fo

- Support Veteran Nonprofits.
- Free Pickup & Towing.
- Top Tax Deduction.

What kinds of vehicles can I donate?

Veteran Car Donations accepts most cars, trucks, boats, RVs and motorcycles. We can pick up your vehicle, running or not.

It gets better: your car donation can be picked up within



How Your Vehicle Donation Helps Veterans

Your vehicle donation directly helps us to provide our nation's heroes with much needed programs and services, such as:

- Essential Medical Care and Mental Health Services
- Mentoring, Job Skills Training, and Employment Assistance
- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Therapy and Grief Couns



Donate Your Vehicle Today 844-518-0031



While we appreciate every donation, in some cases, we find that we are unable to accept certain vehicles, watercraft, and



"Pray without Ceasing" 1 Thessalonians 5:17

OMAHA STEAKS



Helping seniors stay healthy. Call (866) 384-6796 (TTY 711) to join.

Here today, here tomorrow.

Butcher's Deluxe Package

Air-Chilled Boneless Chicken Breasts (5 oz.)

8 FREE PureGround™ Filet Mignon Burgers (6 oz.)

Individual Scalloped Potatoes (3.8 oz.)

SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY PRICE \$999

8 BURGERS FREE

4 Butcher's Cut Top Sirloins (5 oz.)

Boneless Pork Chops (6 oz.)

4 Caramel Apple Tartlets (4 oz.) jar Omaha Steaks Seasoning (3.1 oz.)

S W H



AD SPACE AVAILABLE 617-779-3771



The answer to your real estate prayers.

Eve Dougherty 617.838.5884 Vice President eve@compass.com

COMPASS

"God is Love" 1 John 4:8



SAINT AGNES **SCHOOL**

39 Medford Street Arlington, MA 02474 781-643-9031 ext. 8305

www.saintagnesschool.com



We Deliver

617,242,4877

9 Moulton St., Charlestown, MA www.mccarthyliquors.com

Fine wines • Spirits • Craft Beers and Seasonal Brews Ales • Kegs and more.

Hours: Mon - Wed: 9am - 10pm | Thur - Sat 9am - 11pm | Sun 12pm - 6pm

IF YOU LIVE ALONE YOU NEED A MEDICAL ALERT

* GPS * Fall Alert * 24/7 * 365 Monitoring Ambulance * Police * Fire * Family/Friends



As Low As \$19⁹⁵/month



GPS Mobile Above

No Contract • No Fees • Easy Setup • md-medalert.com CALL 800-890-8615



ORDER NOW! » **1.877.858.9308** Ask for 71941GHZ

OmahaSteaks.com/GiftGiving3544

Savings shown over aggregated single item base price. Standard S&H applies. Exp. 12/31/22.

"God is Love" 1 John 4:8







SUPPORT OUR PRIESTS THIS CHRISTMAS

Your gift helps care for the health and well-being of priests in good standing.

> Give today at clergytrust.org