CHARLESTOWN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

The Parish Families of
St. Mary– St. Catherine of Siena and St. Francis de Sales

Parish Center & Eucharistic Center
46 Winthrop St.
Charlestown, MA 02129
617-242-4664
stmarystcatherine.org

St. Francis Rectory
303 Bunker Hill St.
Charlestown, MA 02129
617-242-0147
stfrancis02129@gmail.com

Our Mission is to make active disciples of Jesus Christ by creating a welcoming community rich in spirituality and by moving people to share their God-given talents in the service of others and the care of creation.

Welcome!

To visitors to our parish, to those who have recently moved into the area, and to those who are comfortable and nourished here– ***welcome to all!***

Regardless of your status, your marital state, your ethnicity, your prior religious history, background or sexual orientation, please know that you are accepted and respected at our parish. Please introduce yourself to the priest, and register as a member of our parishes.

We are 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 strive to build a vibrant parish that strengthens our faith and elevates 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.

Led by the Holy Spirit, the Parish Family of St. Francis de Sales seeks to know and celebrate Jesus through Mass, Prayer, Sacrament and Service.

St Francis deSales Church is the oldest consecrated church in New England, the oldest in the city of Boston in continuous service, and the fourth oldest in America, dating to 1857, when it was built, 163 years ago, on the top of Bunker Hill.

St. Francis is also known affectionately as the Firefighter's church – The statue of St. Florian, patron saint, is located in the bell yard next to the church.

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

Saturday - St. Francis de Sales
4:00 p.m.

Sunday - St. Francis de Sales
10:00 a.m.

Daily Mass - St. Mon.-Fri. 8:00 a.m. **St. Francis de Sales**

Holy Day Masses St. Francis de Sales
4:00 p.m. vigil Mass
12:05 p.m. on Holy Day

Reconciliation 3:15 - 3:45 Saturdays

Pastor
Fr. John Sheridan

St Mary St Catherine - Siena

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

Hispanic Ministry
Blanca Paz

St Francis de Sales

Business Manager
Joan C. Rae

Parish Nurse Ministry Director
Mrs. Maureen Collier, RN BSN

From our Pastor ...

and so she rocks Him gently, she knows she's been a part
of something more she can ever ponder in her heart.
The past has been confusing, but the future's looking bright...
'cause Mary holds the Light in arms tonight.
From *Mary holds the Light* by Clay Crosse

I begin with the warmest of wishes for a Blessed Christmas for each one of you, your families and all those you love. May the peace and hope of the newborn Christ rest and rise in your hearts and souls this happy day and throughout the year to come.

I am very grateful to the incredible group of people in both parishes who give of themselves every day so selflessly- top-notch staffs, Councils, volunteers and so many people who very quietly, heroically, and lovingly do the work of the Church. I thank those who give so generously their time, talent, and treasure throughout this year of often tumultuous change. We are blessed in so many ways.

The light that drew the shepherds and Magi is within us, now- it's our vocation- each of us- to share it with the world- may that light reflect and attract others- not just by its brightness, but by its warmth. Encourage someone you love to join you at Mass. We're called to be light to others- and the light is Christ. Let it shine. Merry Christmas!

The First Bulletin of St Mary St Catherine Siena and St Francis de Sales

This is an important step in our parishes' collaboration, the development of a combined bulletin. I am very grateful to Dianne Ludy and Joan Rae for their cooperation in bring it together. As we begin this venture, we may have a lip up or two, and I encourage your input and response in putting together something we all turn to for information, inspiration, and enlightenment. May our Blessed Mother guide us through this period of transition to where He is calling us to be. Thank you!

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**

St, Francis de Sales Church
313 Bunker Hill Street

Bishop Lawton Hall
313 Bunker Hill Street 617.242.9771

St. Francis de Sales Parish Center
325 Bunker Hill Street 617.242.0997

The Church is handicap-accessible on Soley Street.
The Chapel is handicap-accessible on Winthrop Street.

The Church is handicap accessible

December 25 ~ The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

Throughout Advent, the scriptures were preparing us for the celebration of Christmas. In the letter to the Hebrews, this truth is made abundantly clear – "In times past, God spoke in partial and various ways to our ancestors through the prophets; in these last days, he has spoken to us through the Son." So today, whether you attend the vigil Mass or a Mass on Christmas Day, proclaim the message with resounding joy ~ "Today, a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord." May your celebrations this Christmas reflect your gratitude for the gift you have received in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

Gloria in Excelsis Deo

Estamos en Navidad, quién más, quién menos, todos tenemos el corazón un poco inundado de bolas de cristal, de campanas, árboles de navidad, chrismas, belenes y otros artículos o elementos mas o menos al uso.

Ya estamos en Navidad, pero ¿qué Navidad?, Sí, porque a uno se le puede antojar esa pregunta ¿Qué tiene que ver todo este con la Navidad, con el nacimiento de Jesús?, es sin duda, una buena cuestión para hacerse estos días. Todos esos deseos de felicidad, todos esos parabienes que han brotado de lo más hondo de nosotros, los hemos hecho empujados por la celebración del acontecimiento que hoy conmemoramos: el nacimiento de Jesús. Ese misterio al cual nos hemos ido preparando en el adviento, para intentar comprender, aunque sea un poco, el significado de que Dios se haga hombre como nosotros.

Es Navidad, ha nacido el Hijo de Dios, es el cumplimiento de lo que anunciaron los profetas en el Antiguo Testamento, es la manifestación de que nuestro Dios cumple su promesa. Ese cambio interior, esa transformación de nuestras conductas, esa necesidad de mejora, que hemos ido sintiendo en este tiempo de preparación, encuentra hoy, su realidad y su razón de ser. Porque Dios nace cada año, yo tengo que seguir intentado, dar pasos para mejorar mi vida en aquellas cosas en las que reconozco mi debilidad y defectos, porque Dios nace cada año yo mantengo firme mi esperanza y mi ilusión aunque haya muchas cosas a mi alrededor y en vida que me harían pensar todo lo contrario.

No había ocurrido antes, nadie lo había podido intuir, ninguna religión se había atrevido a tanto. Es nuevo que un Dios envíe a su hijo y lo introduzca en la historia de los hombres como uno de ellos. Un nuevo modo de relacionarnos con Dios se inaugura con los acontecimientos de la Navidad. Dios ha dejado de ser inaccesible para convertirse en uno de nosotros. Si antiguamente Dios habló a los hombres de muchas maneras, ahora ya nos habla por el Hijo. La distancia es tan corta que el Hijo se ha hecho uno de nosotros. Cuando antes la ley regulaba la forma de relacionarse el hombre con Dios, ahora sólo el amor es la nueva ley. Un amor que se hace incuestionable por parte de Dios, y al que nosotros solemos responder con nuestros pecados, con nuestros olvidos, pero todo eso que enturbia nuestra relación con Dios, queda superado en el Niño que hoy nos nace y esto es una gran noticia.

El creyente, el que de verdad se atreve a acercarse al Niño que nace en Belén, y en él reconocer a Dios, tiene que acordarse hoy, de los mas necesitados que viven entre nosotros. Tiene que acordarse hoy de los millones de niños que mueren cada día de hambre en un mundo en el que a algunos nos sobran las cosas. Tiene que acordarse de aquellos que tienen que abandonar sus familias para ir a sitios de los que desconocen todo. De los que sufren enfermedades, de los que están solos. De los o las que sufren violencia incluso de sus propios familiares. Hoy más que nunca tengo que acordarme de estas personas, y ¿por qué? Porque es Navidad, porque Dios, sin olvidar su grandeza, se ha hecho pobre, se ha hecho niño, se ha hecho hombre como yo, y esa lección no puedo dejar escapar. La alegría de su nacimiento nos anima a ser mejores, a trabajar por hacernos la vida un poco mas feliz los unos a los otros, a llevarnos bien, si Dios me quiere tanto, yo tengo que querer a la gente con la que vivo.

Al tiempo que contemplamos el misterio de su nacimiento, pensamos un poco sobre estas cosas, las hacemos nuestras, le pedimos al Señor que nos ayude a convencernos de ello y a descubrirlo un poco más en nuestros acontecimientos y en las personas con las que nos encontramos a diario, hasta el punto de lograr que cada día de nuestra vida sea una auténtica Navidad, porque cada día nace Jesús en nuestro corazón. Cuando nos acerquemos a adorar a Jesús al final de la Eucaristía, tenemos que ofrecerle todas estas buenas intenciones y deseos, y le pedimos que con su ayuda las hagamos realidad.

Christmas flowers on the Altar at St. Mary - St. Catherine Siena Parish

Mr & Mrs Walter Albinger
Mary & Bob Alix
Rafael A Amesly
The Anjomi Family
J Baluyot Family
Mary E & Michael T Bird
Bernadette Bourgoin
Louis Bourgoin
Meaghan Brady
Robert Brady
Robert Brady, Jr.
Mary Breslin
Kathleen & Thomas Broderick
Thomas M Broderick
Marion Burr
Burton Family
The Butler Family
Frank & Nora Butler
Michael & Bob Burton
Kellian Burton-Karabello
Nicole Caferelli
Laura & Paul Calia
PopPop Campbell
Rev. James B. Canniff
Mr & Mrs John Casey
The Casey Family
Anne Castro
Chisholm Family
Minnie Citro
Tranquillino Citro
Vincent Citro
Mary Coffey
Scott Collins
Sr. Stephanie Collins, RGS
Marisol Lord Coovert
Costello Family
Dolly Culhane
Michael J. Curran
Patrcik Curr
Devlin Family
Pio Pio DeLuca
Gerard Francis Doherty
Dolan Family
Alfredo Demeco
John J. Donahue
Brigette & Anthony Dooher
Duane Family
Shirley Dube
Ducharme Family
Mercedes Escala
Charles Farmer
Sarah Farmer-Williams
Barbara Fazzio
Victor Fuentes
Frank Gabbianelli
Fr. Henry M. Gallagher
The Ghent Family
Michael Gilmore
George Glines
Ruthie Gorman
The Green Family
Hammons Family
The Hangasci Family
Joe & Eileen Hanson
Pat Hanson
Hafey Family
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Harkin
Lesley Hauser
Daniel & Marie Henderson
The Hooley Family
Katherine & Bill Howard
The Hubbard Family
Nancy Hughes
Catherine Jacobus
Richard Kashey
Rose & Emil Kashey
William & Catherine Keane
Kessler Family
Lois & Thomas Kraman
Walter Landergan, Jr.
John Landrigan
Anne Latino
Joseph Latino
David Latta Jr
Fabio Laudadio
Kenny Lewis
Anne Lindmark
Lombard Family
Guy Maccarone & Family
Carlos Macha
Kenny Macha
Clara & John Mahoney
Frank & Rose Manganelli
Arthur Mari
Joseph Mari
Maria Martin
Verna Mauet Family
The Maughn Family
Michael J McDermott
Ann & George McDonald
Gene McFadgen
Anne McGonagle
Mary McGowan
Kevin McIntyre
Billy McKillop
McKillop Family
John W. McNamara
William & Winifred McNamara
Bette McNiff
McPortland Family
Patricia Rosseth Megna
Astalfo Mendoza
William & Maryon Melvin
Rene Menard
Linda Miele
Mary & Ralph Mills Family
John, Mitzi & Michelle Moles
Rupert Molloy
Moore Family
Muldoon Family
Mulvaney Family
Margaret Murphy
Noonan Family
James & Margaret O'Brien
Robert O'Connell
Jess O'Neill
Carola Ortega
Angel Luis Paz
Joseph & Elizabeth Pelosi
Philip & Theresa Pollack
Prison Ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph
Reffi Family
Bartley & Elizabeth Regan
Thomas J. Regan
Alfred & Frances Ridings
The Ridings Family
Rinaldi Family
Ring Family
Robert "Bob" Rooney, Sr. & Patricia Rooney
Bobby Rooney, Jr.
Capt. John Rooney
Helen Rosetti
Mary Rosetti
Patricia Rosetti
Carol Ross
The Rush Family
The Russell Family
Christina Ryan
Patrick & Mary Ryan
Ellie "Cis" & Michael Santosuosso
Fred & Gertrude Santosuosso
George & Michael Saulnier
Antonetta & Domenic Screnci, Sr.
Megna Marylou Screnci
Rosa & Henry Shackford
Shea Family
Jack & Mary Sheehan
JoAnn Sheehan
Paul & Evelyn Sheehan
Wanda Sheehan
Marion Smith
Chris & Fionna Staley
Sullivan Family
Minnie Tranquillino
Sue Tubbs
The Upton Family
Katrina Vernitsky
Alfred & Mary Voboril
Bill & Mildred Walsh
Edward & Margaret Walsh
John & Mary Walsh
Francis Webber
Catherine "Kay" Webster
John A Whelan
Sue Ellen Whelan
Sara White
Margaret & Paul Yorganjian
Lost Souls

Those who passed away in our Parish 2022

Margaret Mary Jenkins
Robert Joseph Sullivan
Rose Catherine Walsh
Richard E. Hart
Thomas F. Deeley, Sr.
Kelly Jean King
Charline Marie Brown
Malachi Vincent Decruz
Mildred Rita McNeil
John Patrick Hogan
Edward Francis Kelly
Julianne M. (Dahill) Walsh
Edmund Leo Hafey
Bryan Donahue
Michael Stearns
Theresa Lang
David John Galvin
Gertrude Anna White
Mary Ann Giusto
Kathleen Anne Burke
Lawrence E Atkinson
Ann M (Kelly) Castro
Thomas John Rios
Eugene Thomas Brosnahan
Michael Joseph Burke
James Richard Smith
Denise M. Griffin
Robert Hugh Brady
Vincent Paul Donovan
Francis Joseph Doherty
William Joseph Francis, Jr.
Helen Marie Barker
James Joseph Roche
John Arthur Whelan
Nancy Ellen Russell
Jeannette Guzman, RN
Carol Anne Galvin
Sheila Ann McLaughlin O'Neil
Harold Gerard Robinson
Lisa Hanson O'Neil
Donna Marie Furman
David Robert Mason
Sonok "Katie" Armstrong
Virginia Mae Carey
Madelyn Joan Golden
Theresa Nora McLaughlin
Sheila Elziabeth Butler
Gail Evelyn Sala
Ruth Gorman
Irene Grace Morey
Michael Francis Keigney
Maryann Wrenn

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.

Prayer before Christmas Dinner

God of all gifts, we thank you for the many ways you have blessed us this day. We are grateful each of those who are gathered around this table. We ask you to bless us and our food and to bless those we love who are not with us today. In our gratitude and love, we remember your humble birth into our lives and pray for those who are without enough to eat. We remember the stable in which you were born and pray for those who have no place to live. We remember your challenging message of caring and giving, and we pray for peace in families and nations throughout the world. We bless you and give you thanks in your Spirit who brings our hearts to life this Christmas Day and forever. Amen.

Prayer for those who have lost a loved one:

God of compassion, there is such a hole in my heart! Today should be a day of joy, but I feel only the emptiness and loss of someone so beloved. While the world celebrates around me, I remember Christmas celebrations of the past and I long to have my loved one with me. I bring my sorrows to you, Lord, like some odd gift of the magi and dump them at your feet. In my blind tears I wonder if anyone can possibly understand the depth of my sadness. Yes, you can. You sent your son to be *with* us in our deepest sorrows and I know that even though I might not feel it at this minute, you are here with me, grieving with me, caring for me in my sadness and loving me. Dearest lord, help me to turn to the one I miss so much today and speak. Help me heal the loss of our parting and help me not to regret the things I didn't say. Sorrow tears at my heart, but today I ask that my loss soften my heart and make me more compassionate with everyone I meet. onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Advent/secondweek.html

A Christmas Blessing for All of Our Parishioners and Visitors, and Their Loved Ones

May there be harmony in all your relationships. May sharp words, envious thoughts and hostile feelings be dissolved. 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 with 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 with your family and friends around the table of festivity and nourishment. May you daily open the gift of your life and be grateful for the hidden treasures it contains. May the coming year be one of good health for you. May you have energy and vitality. May you care well for your body, mind and spirit. 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. - Joyce Rupp

Praying for all God's children today ...

All deceased members, priests and sisters of St. Mary - St. Catherine of Siena Parish and St. Francis de Sales Parish.

Deceased members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society

Intentions of unnamed parishioners

Our Troops and Families

Those who have died from Covid, addiction, violence, natural disaster, diseases and illnesses.

Our Grandparents

Those who have died from wars, human trafficking and poverty and those who have no one to pray for them.

St Mary St Catherine Siena
MASS INTENTIONS

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

Saturday 12/24 Christmas Eve
9:00 AM
4:00 PM

Sunday 12/25 Christmas
8:00 AM
10:30 AM

Monday 12/26
9:00 AM Office closed

Tuesday 12/27
8:00 AM

Wednesday 12/28
8:00 AM

Thursday 12/29
8:00 AM

Friday 12/30
8:00 AM

Saturday 12/31 New Year's Eve
9:00 AM
4:00 PM

Sunday 01/01 Solemnity of Mary
8:00 AM
10:30 AM
6:00 PM

Resquiescat in Pace

Irene Morey

Michael Keigney

Maryann Wrenn

ATTENDANCE
December 10
4:00 PM 107
December 11
8:00 AM 39
10:30 AM 129
6:00 PM 35
Total 305

Saint Mary Church
Sanctuary Lamp
Is lit for
Guy Maccarone
And
St. Catherine Siena Chapel Lamp is lit for
Christina Ryan

In this Christmas Season, please know of our heartfelt gratitude to all of our parishioners who so faithfully support our Parish by sharing their time, talent, and treasure.

May our Blessed Savior abundantly bless you and all your loved ones this Christmas and

We extend a warm welcome to all visitors and those who are new to our parishes of St. Mary St. Catherine Siena and St. Franics de Sales

Thank you for joining us this Christmas!

UPCOMING COLLECTIONS

December 25 - Clergy Benefit

January 8 - Monthly

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!

St. Francis de Sales
MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 12/24 Christmas Eve
4:00 PM

Sunday 12/25 Christmas
10:00 AM

Monday 12/26
9:00 AM -Mass for Voctions

Tuesday 12/27
8:00 AM + Deceased Members of Boston Firefighters

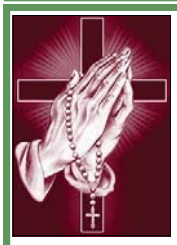
Wednesday 12/28
8:00 AM -For the sick

Thursday 12/29
8:00 AM -Members & benefactors of the Church

Friday 12/30
8:00 AM + Deceased members of the Boston Police & Fire Dept.

Saturday 12/31 New Year's Eve
4:00 PM

Sunday 01/01 Solemnity of Mary
10:30 AM + Rita E Rae



Resquiescat in Pace

James "Jim" Evers

Florence E. Tognarelli

Kevin A. "Gov" Dever

Saint Francis de Sales
Sanctuary Lamp
Is lit for

Members of the Parish

Weekly Novena Devotions

On Tuesdays and Thursday sat 8:00 AM in the Chapel of All Souls, there are special Novena Prayers in the Prayers of the Faithful as part of Our Parish devotions to Saint Anthony and Saint. Jude.

On Tuesday Novena Prayers to Saint Anthony and on Thursday Novena Prayers to Saint Jude.

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- Mentoring, Job Skills Training, and Employment Assistance
- Food, Emergency Shelter, and Housing for Homeless Veterans
- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Therapy and Grief Counseling

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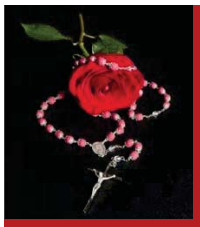
Veteran Car Donations

While we appreciate every donation, in some cases, we find that we are unable to accept certain vehicles, watercraft, and/or recreational vehicles due to the prohibitive costs of acquisition. If you have any questions, please give us a call at (844) 518-0031



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