



# 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 4, 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.

### **A Word or Two from the Pastor**

*I am real. Don't turn me into memory or myth.*

*Let me be real, and I'll show you what it means to love like this...*

*To be real.*

From the song *Real*, written by Nichole Nordeman

Growing up in Newton in December was very interesting. So many of our classmates and friends weren't Christian, and I often wondered what folks of other faiths thought at this time as our world is filled with music, laughter, lights, and food, leading up to the unabashed joy of Christmas Day.

December brings so much to all of us- so many memories- many very happy, some difficult, too. Some reach back and yearn for a time that has passed. Others look ahead.

As much as Advent calls us to look ahead with joy, it calls us to focus, to prepare our hearts, minds, and souls for the coming Savior. How beautiful that in the midst of the chaos this season brings that we should pause and rejoice in the Blessed Mother on the feast of her Immaculate Conception. She, in her humility, her openness, and her love calls us to slow down, to find comfort and courage and look ahead to her Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

During this season when we seem to rush around at a dizzying pace, let's take time to pause and learn from our Blessed Mother to look beyond the displays and find the presence of Christ. She is pointing Him out, encouraging us to look to Him, to follow Him.

I grew up a stone's throw away from an historic place: Echo Bridge. It spanned two towns- Newton and Needham, and it's a great place to take a quiet walk and admire nature as it changes through the seasons. When I think of parishes working together as we are beginning to do, I always think about bridges, starting with Echo.

St Mary- St. Catherine and St. Francis de Sales parishes are beginning the process of building a bridge- becoming a collaborative. Our parishes, rich in history and with so much to share, will embark on a mission to work closer

*Second Sunday of Advent*

## 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

Visit us at  
[stmaryscatherine.org](http://stmaryscatherine.org)  
and  
[facebook.com/  
stmaryscatherine](https://facebook.com/stmaryscatherine)

together. How? That remains to be seen. This will be my third collaborative, and each came into their own in different ways. We will share not only a pastor, but we'll also share supplies, facilities, liturgies, communications, schedules, councils and more.

There will be changes as time goes by, and I'm going to lean on the strength and ask for the counsel and support of our staff, and parish pastoral and finance councils as we walk through the decisions. The Archdiocese will help us, giving us assistance, recognizing that we will cross our bridge as God calls us here, in our own way.

I want to make it clear that as we begin this new period that what makes each parish extraordinary remains as it is. As you heard me say last weekend, I'm here to build. It's going to take a while, I ask your patience, as well as your prayers.

Fr. John

### 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

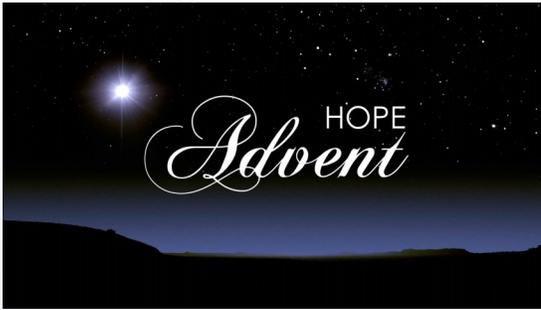
46 Winthrop Street 617-242-4664  
[info@stmaryscatherine.org](mailto:info@stmaryscatherine.org)

**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 4 ~ Second Sunday in Advent

Hope is a prominent theme in the readings of this second week of this new liturgical year. Isaiah presents a hope-filled picture of the Kingdom that Christ came to establish, and St. Paul reminds us that the scriptures we hear give us a reason to be hopeful. “Whatever was previously written ...was for our instruction. . . that by endurance and encouragement, we might have hope.” A good way to prepare for Christ’s coming is to carve out a few

minutes each day this week to re-read these readings, being attentive to the encouragement and hope God is holding out to you. Is there someone in your life with whom you can extend God’s reassurance and hope?

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 8:** Feast of the Immaculate Conception

*Masses:* Dec 7 @ 6:30 pm and Dec 8 @ 8:00 am  
both in the upper Church

**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.** Can you join us for this important activity? Coffee will be available! If you can spare some time, please let us know at 617-242-4664 or email [dludy@stmaryscatherine.org](mailto:dludy@stmaryscatherine.org)



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!

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER

### K-8

12.4.2022	Sun	6 pm	Youth Group
12.6.2022	Tue	4 pm	parish center
12.18.2022	Sun	9 am	Family Formation -Zoom
12.20.2022	Tue	4 pm	Zoom class

### Confirmation

12.4.2022	Sun	6 pm	Mass & Class in person
12.18.2022	Sun	6 pm	Zoom class

### Holy Communion

12.4.2022	Sun	9 am	In person
12.18.2022	Sun	9 am	Family Formation -Zoom
12.20.2022	Tues	4 pm	Zoom class



## 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](mailto:ncitro@stmaryscatherine.org)



## SAVE THE DATE FOR

**ST. MARY ST. CATHERINE SIENA  
&  
FRIENDS OF THE CHARLESTOWN  
LIBRARY**

**CHRISTMAS CONCERT WITH THE**

**THE SPECTRUM SINGERS**

**DECEMBER 11, 2022**

**3:00 PM**

**RIGHT HERE IN THE UPPER CHURCH**



## 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.

*Welcome*



## 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, some of our giving tree tags request gift cards or monetary donations. Please see specifics below:

- **St. Mary Center for Woman & Children**—specific request for a gift.
- **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 under the tree. **Please place the tree tag on the outside of the gift/envelope.** Please submit your donations by December 20th for delivery.

## 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.

## 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



## 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 undergoing 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)*

## 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@stmaryscatherine.org](mailto:dludy@stmaryscatherine.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.

**MASS SCHEDULE**

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

**SATURDAY 12/03**

**9:00 AM  
4:00 PM EMMETT R. PULLIAM JR.**

**ADVENT BEGINS**

**SUNDAY 12/04**

**8:00 AM  
10:30 AM EVELYN RAY & JIMMY ROY-  
SMITH  
6:00PM DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE  
JAMES P COLLINS FAMILY**

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

**MONDAY 12/05**

**8:00 AM**

**TUESDAY 12/06**

**8:00 AM**

**WEDNESDAY 12/07**

**8:00 AM  
6:30 PM VIGIL MASS IMMACULATE  
CONCEPTION—CHURCH**

**THURSDAY 12/08 CHURCH**

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION  
HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION  
8:00 AM**

**FRIDAY 12/09**

**8:00 AM BOBBY LAPOINTE**

**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 + CHRISTINA RYAN  
3:00 PM CHRISTMAS CONCERT  
6:00PM + JOAN & DAN BLAKE**

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



The Church  
Sanctuary Lamp  
Is lit for  
Thomas Regan  
And

The Chapel Sanctuary Lamp  
Is lit for  
Anne Marie Collins

**ATTENDANCE**

**NOVEMBER 19  
4:00 PM 74**

**NOVEMBER 20  
8:00 AM 47  
10:30 AM 87  
6:00 PM 55**

**TOTAL 263**

**ATTENDANCE**

**NOVEMBER 26  
4:00 PM 57**

**NOVEMBER 27  
8:00 AM 60  
10:30 AM 150  
6:00 PM 32**

**TOTAL 299**

**UPCOMING COLLECTIONS**

December 11 - Monthly  
December 18 - Parish Christmas  
December 25 - Clergy Benefit  
January 8 - Monthly

***Parish Giving***

**Weekend of Nov 19 & 20  
Parishioners contributed  
\$5,597.55**

**To the Weekly Collection  
And  
\$820  
To the Religious Retirement**

**Weekend of Nov 26 & 27  
Parishioners contributed**

**3,525.23  
To the Weekly Collection**

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

**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.



**Sacrament of  
Penance  
at the Church**

**Saturdays -**

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

**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 vis-  
it our website for events and resources. You may also register online at:  
[www.stmarystcatherine.org](http://www.stmarystcatherine.org)*