

# CHARLESTOWN CATHOLIC COLLABORATIVE

Saint Mary–Saint Catherine of Siena and Saint Francis de Sales Parishes

Parish Center & Eucharistic Center, 46 Winthrop Street, 617-242-4664, charlestowncatholic.org

St. Francis Rectory, 303 Bunker Hill Street, 617-242-0147, info@charlestowncatholic.org

Charlestown, MA 02129

April 28, 2024



## 5th Sunday of Easter

*"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and every one that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit." (Jn 15: 1-2)*

### 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!** Please introduce yourself to the priest, and register as a member of our parishes.*

### SAINT MARY - SAINT CATHERINE

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.

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 worship.

### SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES

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

Saint Francis de Sales 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, built in 1859, on the top of Bunker Hill. Saint Francis is 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

Saturdays at 9 am, Holidays at 9 am

8:00 am Masses — Weekdays  
St. Catherine Chapel  
at St. Mary Church

### Weekend Masses

#### Saturday

9 am St. Mary- St. Catherine  
4 pm St. Francis de Sales  
4 pm St. Mary - St. Catherine

#### Sunday

8 am St. Mary- St. Catherine  
9:30 am St. Francis de Sales  
11 am St. Mary - St. Catherine  
6 pm St. Mary - St. Catherine

#### 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

Allison Buff

#### Confirmation Director

Cynthia Markey

#### Director of Music

John Anthony Volpe

#### Administrative Assistant

Dianne Ludy

#### Hispanic Ministry

Blanca Paz

## St Francis de Sales

#### Pastoral Assistant

Joan C. Rae

#### Music Director

Timothy Leahy

#### Parish Nurse Ministry Director

Mrs. Maureen Collier, RN BSN

#### Clergy in Residence

Fr. Jerome Gillespie  
Fr. Anthony Nweke C.S.S.p.  
Fr. Britto Dhinakaran  
Fr. Mark Shimave

#### Email

[info@charlestowncatholic.org](mailto:info@charlestowncatholic.org)

## UPCOMING SACRAMENT

### FIRST COMMUNION

- **St Mary Church— second graders in our Religious Education Program will receive their First Holy Communion on Saturday, May 4th at 10:00 am.**
- **St Francis de Sales Church—second graders in our Religious Education Program will receive their First Holy Communion on Sunday, May 5th at the 9:30 am Mass.**

*When the sacred scriptures are read in church, God himself is speaking to the people, and Christ, present in his word, is proclaiming his Gospel.*

*Hence the readings from God's word are among the most important elements in the liturgy, and all who are present should listen to them with reverence. The word of God in the scripture readings is indeed addressed to all people of all times.*

~~~~~  
*The Constitution  
on the Sacred Liturgy*



**“What is it you want to change? Your hair, your face, your body? Why? For God is in love with all those things and he might weep when they are gone.”**

*~ St Catherine of Siena*

#### Saint Mary Church

55 Warren St.

#### Saint Catherine of Siena Chapel

Warren & Soley St.

617.242.4664

—

#### St. Francis de Sales Church

313 Bunker Hill St.

617.242.0147

#### Charlestown Catholic Collaborative

Parish Center

46 Winthrop St.

617-242-4664

#### Social Ministry Office

49 Vine Street 617-580-8305

#### Good Shepherd School

20 Winthrop Street 617-242-8800

### Handicapped Access

St. Mary's Church is handicapped-accessible on Soley Street.  
St. Catherine's Chapel is handicapped-accessible on Winthrop Street.

## *From our Pastor ...*

*We're so much more than blood, we're more than names...  
we're bound by bonds that only God sustains.  
But this time of year we gather here, and I always know I'm home.  
There are voices now where silence was... the subtle signs of growing up.  
Where one is born, another leaves... branches on the family tree.*

From *Family Tree*, written by Dave Barnes

An powerful image the Second Vatican Council used when speaking of the Christian Church is the tree and branches that Jesus uses in this weekend's Gospel; that as we belong to something bigger than ourselves, we're intimately connected. Catholics, Protestants and Orthodox share baptism, and so much more- Jesus reminded us of this last weekend. During this joyous season of Easter, it's a perfect time to pray for the unity of our Christian family. Holy Spirit, descend upon us all and remind us of what truly matters!

### **First Communion!**

We will celebrate First Communion at St Mary's on Saturday, **May 4 at 10 am**  
and at St. Francis on **Sunday, May 5 at 9:30 am!**

*As we conclude the Faith Formation year,  
we express our thanks and fond farewell to Allison Buff, who ran our K-4 program so very well this year.*

### **Let Anyone Who Thirsts, Come to Me:**

#### **A Healing Mass for those Impacted by Divorce or Separation**

Tuesday, April 30 at the Pastoral Center from 6:30- 9pm. Hosted by Family Life Ministry, the evening includes Confession, Adoration, a witness talk by divorced Catholic Mark Gioia, a Mass celebrated by Fr. Jürgen Liias, and prayers for healing. For more info or to register visit [bit.ly/LetAnyoneWhoThirsts](http://bit.ly/LetAnyoneWhoThirsts) or call Emily Elliott at (617) 746-5756.

### **Project Rachel Post-Abortion Healing Retreats**

Are you – or someone you know – seeking peace after an abortion? The Project Rachel ministry of the Archdiocese of Boston extends a special invitation to women experiencing regret from a past abortion, to attend a *Come to the Waters of Healing* one-day retreat. Upcoming dates are **Saturdays, May 11th & June 8th**. Locations are confidential. For more information on the retreats or other services, contact Project Rachel at 508.651.3100 or [help@projectrachelboston.com](mailto:help@projectrachelboston.com). Fr. John is a Project Rachel priest.

### **A Special Sending Forth**

On **Pentecost Sunday, May 19 at the 11 am Mass** (*wear red that day for the Holy Spirit*), we'll have a sending forth for Sr. Nancy Citro, as she heads off to her next adventure.

Join us for a special Mass and celebration as we express our gratitude to our beloved sister in Jesus Christ and her exceptional ministry here.

### **When my heart finds Christmas...**

On **Friday, Nov. 22**, we're going to Manhattan for the incredible Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular, starring the Rockettes! We'll leave Charlestown by motorcoach at 7 am, attend the 2 pm show in Orchestra seats, and have a few hours to take in the excitement of the Big Apple- we'll be back in the Town by midnight! We're looking at about \$225 per person. We're limited to 40 people- we'll announce more info soon!



## Charlestown Catholic Collaborative

The 11 am Sunday Mass is live on our Website and Facebook page and archived on Facebook

Saturday, April 27

9 am

4 pm

4 pm CONFIRMATION

Sunday, April 28

8 am + John Shea & John Costello

9:30 am CONFIRMATION

11 am

6 pm + Joseph Augustine

Monday, April 29

8 am

Tuesday, April 30

8 am

Wednesday, May 1

8 am

Thursday, May 2

8 am + Thomas Deeley

Friday, May 3

8 am

Saturday, May 4

9 am

10 am First Holy Communion

4 pm The Carpenter Family; Edwin & Loretta, Edward, and Rose Cardonello, Christopher Cardonello

4 pm + Paul & Rina Tripp

Sunday, May 5

8 am

9:30 am First Holy Communion

11 am + Rowlinson Family; Walter, Gloria, Steven & Anne

6 pm

# CHARLESTOWN CATHOLIC

*We extend a warm welcome to all visitors and those who are new to our parishes. If you're new to St. Mary—St. Catherine of Siena Parish or St. Francis de Sales Parish, please visit our website for events and resources. Please register online at: [charlestowncatholic.org](http://charlestowncatholic.org)*

### Our Stewardship Prayer

Heavenly Father, instill in our hearts a spirit of love and compassion. May we foster a welcoming parish community with acceptance and respect for all. Inspire us to make a difference by being generous with our time and talents. Please send your Holy Spirit among us to remind us to follow Jesus and his teachings in all aspects of our lives. As we end this Mass, may we go forth and spread goodwill among our neighbors, friends, and fellow parishioners. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen

### **DON'T FORGET THOSE IN NEED**

The work of the St. Vincent de Paul Society continues in our parish. The Society helps a number of individuals and families in Charlestown with various needs and Harvest on Vine assists families with food assistance. Thank you for all your help.



*FOR OUR PARISHIONERS*  
*If you are planning a Wedding, planning a Baptism, if you are interested in becoming Catholic or have not yet received Confirmation, if you are homebound and would like to receive the Sacraments, interested in the choir,*

*Religious Education, or becoming a volunteer in a Ministry or wish to register in our parishes, contact us at the Parish office at 617.242.4664 or email*

[info@charlestowncatholic.org](mailto:info@charlestowncatholic.org)

*The Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered at 3:15 pm on Saturdays before Mass at both Parishes.*

*If you would like to pray the rosary with us on Saturday mornings -*

*Please email Donna at:*

[donna.lecam@gmail.com](mailto:donna.lecam@gmail.com)



Weekend of  
April 20 & 21

Parishioners contributed  
\$ 12,388.66  
to the Weekly Collection  
And \$1,4074 to the monthly collection

*St. MC Attendance*

|          |     |
|----------|-----|
| 4:00 pm  | 70  |
| 8:00 am  | 69  |
| 11:00 am | 79  |
| 6:00 pm  | 101 |
| Total    | 319 |

St. Mary - St Catherine of Siena UP-  
COMING COLLECTIONS

May 5 Insurance  
May 12 Monthly  
May 19 Seminary Offering



*Requiescat in  
Pace*

*Thomas Joseph  
Carroll*

*Mary Josephine Sheridan*

*Teresa MacDougall*

*COMING UP*

*May 2 is USA National Day  
of Prayer*

*May 9 is Ascension Thurs-  
day*



WE ARE GRATEFUL  
TO YOU

April 20 & 21  
Parishioners  
contributed \$ 2,526.03  
to the Weekly Collection

*St. F Attendance*

|         |     |
|---------|-----|
| 4:00 pm | 46  |
| 9:30 am | 67  |
| Total   | 113 |

St. Francis de Sales  
UPCOMING COLLECTIONS

May 5 Capital Improvement  
May 12 Parish Deficit  
May 19 Seminary Offering

# COMMUNITY NEWS & INFO

## ~ St. Francis de Sales Facts

Born into a family of nobility on August 21, 1567 in Chateau de Sales France.

Educated in the humanities at the Jesuit College of Clermont at the University of Paris and received a dual doctorate in civil and canon law from the University of Padua.

He chose to enter the priesthood against his parents wishes and was ordained in 1593 and elected provost of the Geneva Diocese.

His main mission was to convert Protestants to Catholics but his sermons were met with mixed results so he decided to distribute leaflets as an efficient way to spread his message.

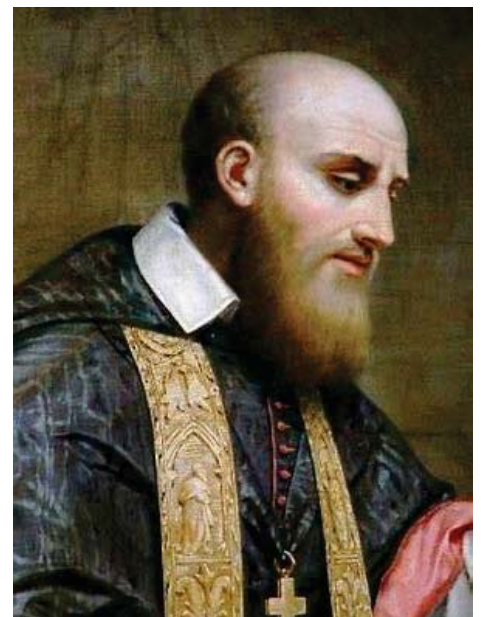
In 1602 he became Bishop of Geneva.

Co-founded the Order of the Visitation of the Holy Mary with Jane Frances de Chantal.

St. Francis de Sales died on December 28, 1622. Canonized in April 1665 proclaimed Doctor of the Church in 1877.

In 1923 Pope Pius XI named him the official patron of authors and journalists. He developed sign language to teach a deaf man about God so he is also the patron saint of the deaf and hard of hearing.

His feast day is January 24th.







*Come celebrate...*

## *“Mother’s Day Morning with Mary”*

*Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup>*

*St. Mary/St. Catherine of Siena Parish*

*55 Warren St. Charlestown, MA*

*9 AM Rosary Service:*



*Crowning of the Virgin*

*Exposition of the Sacrament*

*Music Scripture Refreshments sponsored by Tatte*

*All are welcome*

## Saint Catherine of Siena

1347-1380

FEAST DAY: APRIL 29



Saint  
Catherine  
Of  
Siena  
Feast  
Day  
April 29

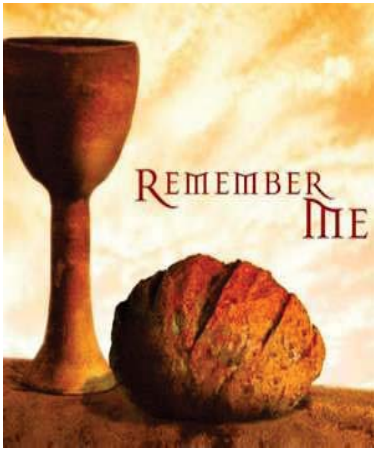
Catherine was the 24th of 25 children of a Sieneese dyer; her mystical experiences and raptures began at age 6. She refused to marry, and about 1367 joined the Third Order of St. Dominic. She attracted a like-minded group in Siena for prayer and good works and devoted her last five years to church unity and ending the scandal of rival papacies. Though she experienced the pain of the stigmata, it became visible only after her death at 33. And, in an odd division of relics, her body is in a Roman church, while her head is in a Sieneese church. Named a doctor of the church in 1970, Catherine is a patron saint of Europe and Italy, and the patron of fire prevention, nurses and nursing.

“Take as your example your heavenly patroness, St Catherine, a humble and fearless Dominican tertiary who gave herself unsparingly for the Church. For everyone may this great saint be not only a special protectress but a model to follow on the path of holiness.”

—Saint John Paul II, October 10, 1999



## AN INVITATION AND A NEED TO PONDER



*The celebration of the Sunday Eucharist is the center point of the life of any Catholic community.*

*Our own Parish Mission Statement highlights the Eucharist as that which nourishes everything in our Parish. Always we are striving to celebrate Sunday Mass as best as possible and to do that, we need lots of help. In addition to maintaining our beautiful worship space, we need people to assist in the various ministries at Mass: greeters, lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, and altar servers. I invite you to ponder whether you can assist us in one of these ministries.*

*Sometimes when I speak with a parishioner about being a minister – a natural reaction is:*

***“ME – I could never to that!”***

*We are inclined to think that serving in ministry is more for someone else and we are not worthy to do that. Well, no one IS worthy! However many are able to lend a hand and with preparation and support, carry out a much needed and important ministry at the Parish.*

*Please read below and pray, wonder and talk with us – if you feel so called.*



### **Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion**

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are adult Catholics in good standing who have a love for the Eucharist and wish to serve their fellow parishioners. Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are ordinary Christians who model Christian living in faith and conduct in their ministry and in their daily lives. A formal training program for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion is provided.

### **Ministers of the Word (Lectors)**

Lectors are adult Catholics in good standing who have a love for the Word of God and wish to serve their fellow parishioners as a Minister of the Word. The Liturgy of the Word is an essential component of the Eucharistic Liturgy. The Ministry of Lector is to proclaim the Word of God in the assembly of the people. We offer a formal training program for Lectors and provide them with books that contain all the readings for the church year and may be studied at home.

### **Arimathea Society**

Assist with Funeral Masses

### **Cana Society**

Assist with Weddings and wedding rehearsals

### **Baptism Committee**

Assist with Baptism Preparation and Baptisms

### **Greeters and Ushers**

Greeters and ushers are a group of dedicated men and women of all ages. Greeters faithfully welcome our parishioners and visitors as they arrive for Mass. Ushers are responsible for taking up the collection during the liturgy.

**For more information please contact Sr. Nancy: [617-242-4664](tel:617-242-4664) or [ncitro@stmaryscatherine.org](mailto:ncitro@stmaryscatherine.org).**

### **GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGING**

**THAT GOD GIVES US ALL, WE EACH WILLINGLY OFFER OUR UNIQUE GIFTS TO ONE ANOTHER  
AND ALL CREATION IN THE SPIRIT OF JESUS CHRIST.**





## Todo sarmiento que da fruto, lo poda

«Yo soy la vida verdadera, y mi Padre es el viñador. Todo sarmiento que en mí no da fruto, lo corta, y todo el que da fruto, lo poda, para que dé más fruto». En su enseñanza Jesús parte con frecuencia de cosas familiares para cuantos le escuchan, cosas que estaban ante los ojos de todos. Esta vez nos habla con la imagen de la vid y los sarmientos.

Jesús expone dos casos. El primero, negativo: el sarmiento está seco, no da fruto, así que es cortado y desechado; el segundo, positivo: el sarmiento está aún vivo y sano, por lo que es podado. Ya este contraste nos dice que la poda no es un acto hostil hacia el sarmiento. El viñador espera todavía mucho de él, sabe que puede dar frutos, tiene confianza en él. Lo mismo ocurre en el plano espiritual. Cuando Dios interviene en nuestra vida con la cruz, no quiere decir que esté irritado con nosotros. Justamente lo contrario.

Pero ¿por qué el viñador poda el sarmiento y hace «llorar», como se suele decir, a la vid? Por un motivo muy sencillo: si no es podada, la fuerza de la vid se desperdicia, dará tal vez más racimos de lo debido, con la consecuencia de que no todos maduren y de que descienda la graduación del vino. Si permanece mucho tiempo sin ser podada, la vid hasta se asilvestra y produce sólo pámpanos y uva silvestre. Lo mismo ocurre en nuestra vida. Vivir es elegir, y elegir es renunciar. La persona que en la vida quiere hacer demasiadas cosas, o cultiva una infinidad de intereses y de aficiones, se dispersa; no sobresaldrá en nada. Hay que tener el valor de hacer elecciones, de dejar aparte algunos intereses secundarios para concentrarse en otros primarios. ¡Podar!

Esto es aún más verdadero en la vida espiritual. La santidad se parece a la escultura. Leonardo da Vinci definió la escultura como «el arte de quitar». Las otras artes consisten en poner algo: color en el lienzo en la pintura, piedra sobre piedra en la arquitectura, nota tras nota en la música. Sólo la escultura consiste en quitar: quitar los pedazos de mármol que están de más para que surja la figura que se tiene en la mente. También la perfección cristiana se obtiene así, quitando, haciendo caer los pedazos inútiles, esto es, los deseos, ambiciones, proyectos y tendencias carnales que nos dispersan por todas partes y no nos dejan acabar nada.

Un día, Miguel Ángel, paseando por un jardín de Florencia, vio, en una esquina, un bloque de mármol que asomaba desde debajo de la tierra, medio cubierto de hierba y barro. Se paró en seco, como si hubiera visto a alguien, y dirigiéndose a los amigos que estaban con él exclamó: «En ese bloque de mármol está encerrado un ángel; debo sacarlo fuera». Y armado de cincel empezó a trabajar aquel bloque hasta que surgió la figura de un bello ángel.

También Dios nos mira y nos ve así: como bloques de piedra aún informes, y dice para sí: «Ahí dentro está escondida una criatura nueva y bella que espera salir a la luz; más aún, está escondida la imagen de mi propio Hijo Jesucristo [nosotros estamos destinados a «reproducir la imagen de su Hijo» (Rm 8, 29. Ndt)]; ¡quiero sacarla fuera!». ¿Entonces qué hace? Toma el cincel, que es la cruz, y comienza a trabajarnos; toma las tijeras de podar y empieza a hacerlo. ¡No debemos pensar en quién sabe qué cruces terribles! Normalmente Él no añade nada a lo que la vida, por sí sola, presenta de sufrimiento, fatiga, tribulaciones; sólo hace que todas estas cosas sirvan para nuestra purificación. Nos ayuda a no desperdiciarlas.

## April 28 ~ Fifth Sunday of Easter

Listen again to the words of today's gospel - "Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without you can do nothing." The accounts of the church in the Acts of the Apostles make it clear that the disciples took Jesus words to heart. The fruits born from remaining close to Jesus were unity, peace and growth among the members. How might we as a community of disciples answer this question: what are the fruits that are being born from our following of and listening to Christ? During this Easter season, may the example of the early church continue to inspire us to draw closer to Christ and to direct our efforts to bearing fruit that will last!







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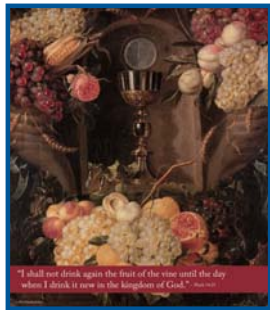
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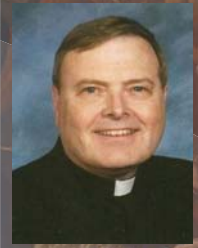
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"WHERE THERE IS DESPAIR, I MAY BRING HOPE" - ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI



healthier priests. stronger communities.

Fr. Tom Nestor has served as pastor at the Collaborative Parishes of Resurrection and Saint Paul in Hingham for the past ten years, and previously served at St. Eulalia's in Winchester for 17 years. A Harvard graduate and native of West Roxbury, Fr. Nestor is known for fostering a sense of community wherever he goes.

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