

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

August 25, 2024

21st SUNDAY
in Ordinary Time



Photo: Fr. Lawrence Lew, O.P.

“As for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

Joshua 24:15

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

Summer Schedule

Saturdays at 9 am, Holidays at 9 am

8:00 am Masses —

Monday, Wednesday and Friday
St. Catherine Chapel at St. Mary Church
Tuesday & Thursday Masses suspended

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

Finance & Operations Manager
James Santosuosso

Social Ministry Director
Thomas J. MacDonald

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. Anthony Nweke C.S.S.p.
Fr. Mark Shimave

Visiting Clergy
Fr. Patrick Mpete, SMA,

Email

info@charlestowncatholic.org



FUNDRAISING BANQUET

Laugh, learn & support life at the annual Massachusetts Citizens for Life fundraising banquet on **Friday, October 4 at 6 PM** at the **Boston Newton Marriott , 2345 Commonwealth Ave., Newton, MA 02466**

Keynote speaker **Seth Dillon, CEO** of the satirical and *pro-life* **Babylon Bee** online news site, will relay efforts to censor the Bee's content and share why truth via humor is so effective in the fight to protect our most vulnerable.

Reservations: MAProLife.org/banquet



SAINTS & OBSERVANCES 2024 YEAR B

SUNDAY August 25	21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
TUESDAY August 27	Saint Monica
WEDNESDAY August 28	Saint Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
THURSDAY August 29	The Passion of Saint John the Baptist
SUNDAY Sept 1	22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Pilot Bulletins

Saint Mary Church
55 Warren St.
Saint Catherine of Siena Chapel
Warren & Soley St.

Charlestown Catholic Collaborative
Parish Center
46 Winthrop St.
617-242-4664

—
St. Francis de Sales Church
313 Bunker Hill St.

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 ...

**Something special is coming on Sept. 9
at 7 pm at St. Catherine Chapel!**



**Bring your hearts, bring your minds,
bring your souls, bring yourselves,
bring someone you love.**

Please note!

Our Daily Mass schedule: Monday- Friday at 8 am
and Saturdays & holidays at 9 am
in St. Catherine's Chapel

will return the week of Sept. 9th.

The 6 pm Sunday Mass will remain at
St. Catherine's Chapel for the time being.

Thank you! Merci!

Soon, we will bid a fond farewell to Fr. Patrick Mpete, SMA, as he concludes his summer with us and returns to his home in the Republic of Congo. We'll have a special collection for the great work of the SMA order next weekend at all the Masses. Thank you, Fr. Patrick!

Welcome, your Excellency!

As we welcome Bishop Richard Henning as our new Archbishop, let's pray that God will give him every good gift of the Holy Spirit he will need. His installation will take place on Thursday, Oct. 31 at the Cathedral.

Catholic Appeal update

*St. Francis and St. Mary- St. Catherine have both hit
over 100% of our Catholic Appeal assessments!*

The Appeal helps our parishes, Collaborative and our Archdiocese! Please give and help us build the ministries so many around us need. Go to catholicappeal.com and answer the call!

Stewardship

Let's look ahead to how we all can get involved in our Collaborative, at St. Francis de Sales and St. Mary- St. Catherine. Take a look at some of the ministries that will benefit from

your involvement in committees: Worship, Baptism Prep, Wedding, St. Francis Hall, Stewardship, Social, Spiritual, Family, Social Justice, and Adult Confirmation/RCIA. Please share your talents with us!

Such an easy and generous way to give!

Please consider **online giving** to help us pay our bills and plan for the future. Give us a call or drop us a note and we'll walk you through the process. Thank you!

When my heart finds Christmas...

On Friday, Nov. 22, we're going to New York City to see incredible **Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular**, starring the Rockettes! We'll leave by motorcoach at 7 am, attend the 2 pm show, and have a few hours to take in the Big Apple- we'll be back by midnight! Tickets are \$225 per person, reservations with a \$100 deposit. 16 available for each parish- maximum of 4 tickets per family. Call Dianne at 617-242-4664- any questions? See Fr. John!

Look up. Look ahead.

Thursday, Aug. 28- Catholic TV Mass @ 9:30 am
Monday, Sept. 9 @ St. Catherine's Chapel
@ 7 pm Symbolon begins

Sunday, Sept. 29- Harvest on Vine Fundraiser
@ Brewer's Fork @ 1 pm



PREGUNTA DECISIVA

El evangelio de Juan ha conservado el recuerdo de una fuerte crisis entre los seguidores de Jesús. No tenemos apenas datos. Solo se nos dice que a los discípulos les resulta duro su modo de hablar. Probablemente les parece excesiva la adhesión que reclama de ellos. En un determinado momento, "muchos discípulos se retiraron y ya no iban con él".

Por primera vez experimenta Jesús que sus palabras no tienen la fuerza deseada. Sin embargo, no las retira sino que se reafirma más: "Las palabras que os he dicho son espíritu y son vida, pero algunos de vosotros no creen". Sus palabras parecen duras, pero transmiten vida, hacen vivir, pues contienen Espíritu de Dios. Jesús no pierde la paz. No le inquieta el fracaso. Dirigiéndose a los Doce les hace la pregunta decisiva: "¿También vosotros queréis marcharos?". No los quiere retener por la fuerza. Les deja la libertad de decidir. Sus discípulos no han de ser siervos sino amigos. Si quieren puede volver a sus casas.

Una vez más Pedro responde en nombre de todos. Su respuesta es ejemplar. Sincera, humilde, sensata, propia de un discípulo que conoce a Jesús lo suficiente como para no abandonarlo. Su actitud puede todavía hoy ayudar a quienes con fe vacilante se plantean prescindir de toda fe. "Señor, ¿a quién iríamos?". No tiene sentido abandonar a Jesús de cualquier manera, sin haber encontrado un maestro mejor y más convincente: Si no siguen a Jesús se quedarán sin saber a quién seguir. No se han de precipitar. No es bueno quedarse sin luz ni guía en la vida.

Pedro es realista. ¿Es bueno abandonar a Jesús sin haber encontrado una esperanza más convincente y atractiva? ¿Basta sustituirlo por un estilo de vida rebajada, sin apenas metas ni horizonte? ¿Es mejor vivir sin preguntas, planteamientos ni búsqueda de ninguna clase? Hay algo que Pedro no olvida: "Tú palabras dan vida eterna". Siente que las palabras de Jesús no son palabras vacías ni engañosas. Junto a él han descubierto la vida de otra manera. Su mensaje les ha abierto a la vida eterna. ¿Dónde podrían encontrar una noticia mejor de Dios?

Pedro recuerda, por último, la experiencia fundamental. Al convivir con Jesús han descubierto que viene del misterio de Dios. Desde lejos, a distancia, desde la indiferencia o el desinterés no se puede reconocer el misterio que se encierra en Jesús. Los Doce lo han tratado de cerca. Por eso pueden decir: "Nosotros creemos y sabemos que tú eres el Santo de Dios". Seguirán junto a Jesús.

August 25 ~ Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today's Gospel points out that even some who had personally accompanied Jesus found his teaching too hard, and returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him. Even today, we see people give up or step away from the demands of being a follower of Christ stating that their faith no longer feels relevant or is too demanding. We too may be tempted to question the teaching of Jesus or feel it takes too much effort and want to walk away. Jesus puts the question to us today that he posed to the disciples, "Do you also want to leave?" Hopefully our response will be like that of Peter, and we will say, "Lord, to who shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." Take time this week with Jesus' question and ask for the grace of perseverance in following him.

Saint Monica

Born in Tagaste in present-day Algeria, this North African lay woman was given in marriage to Patricius, a Roman pagan. St. Augustine of Hippo, a saint in the making, was their eldest child. Monica tried to bring him up a Christian but was also concerned for his worldly success and sent him to Carthage to study. Her prayers helped the conversion of both her husband and her mother-in-law to Christ. Her two other children, Navigius and Perpetua, were also known for righteousness, and Perpetua eventually entered religious life. But Augustine, to Monica's dismay, joined the heretical Manichean sect. He scorned Christianity and had a son with his mistress. In 383, Monica sought his conversion and followed Augustine to Italy, where she became a follower of St. Ambrose and asked for his intervention with Augustine. Three years later, Augustine was baptized by St. Ambrose. Monica fell ill shortly after and died before their return to Africa. Years before, a bishop had famously counseled her, "It is not possible that the son of so many tears should be lost."



“ [August 27] we will celebrate the memory of St Monica, Mother of St Augustine. To the intercession of these Saints let us entrust Christian newlyweds and parents, that like Monica, they may accompany by example and prayer the journey of their children. Let us commend the sick who are most in need of comfort and constant attention as well as young people that, like Augustine, they may move towards the fullness of Truth and Love, which is Christ: he alone can satisfy the deep needs of the human heart. ”

—Pope Francis, general audience, August 26, 2015



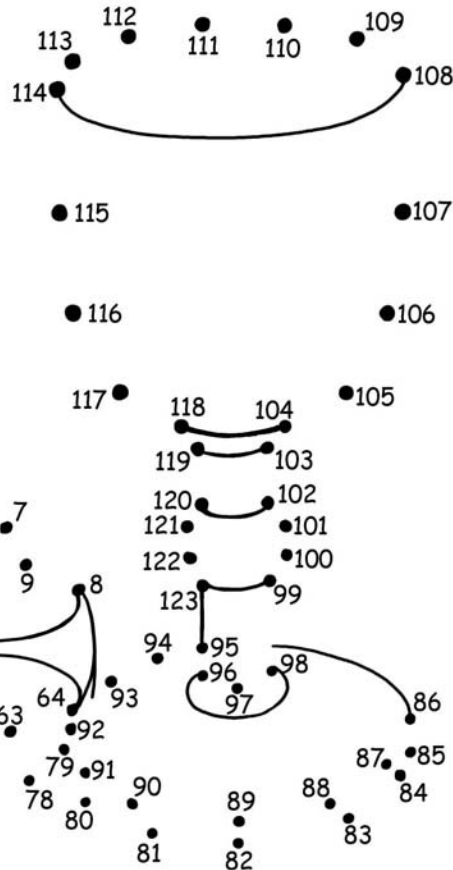
Catholic Current

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CONNECT THE DOTS

GOSPEL READING: JOHN 6, 60-69

AFTER JESUS SPOKE OF EATING HIS BODY AND DRINKING HIS BLOOD, MANY OF HIS DISCIPLES BROKE AWAY. JESUS WAS SPEAKING OF THE EUCHARIST.



Charlestown Catholic Collaborative

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

Saturday, August 24

9 am

4 pm

4 pm + Margaret & Emmett Pulliam; Helen Irwin;
Rita Sullivan & Eleanor Connors

Sunday, August 25

8 am

9:30 am

11 am + Catherine, Daniel, George and John Noonan
6 pm + Marion Burr & Shirely Dube

Monday, August 26

8 am

Wednesday, August 28

8 am

Friday, August 30

8 am + Bao Tram Doan

Saturday, August 31

9 am

4 pm

4 pm + Emma Mahoney

Sunday, September 1

8 am

9:30 am + Eddie "Biga" Greatorax & Mary "Nanna" Small

11 am + Marilyn Cunio

6 pm

*Please take note that the Tuesday & Thursday morning
Masses will begin again on the week of Sept. 9.*

The 6 pm Mass will be at St Catherine of Siena Chapel.

CHARLESTOWN CATHOLIC



Registration for Religious Education for 2024-25 is on our website!

At this time, we are planning a similar program for the 2024-25 school year as we had this past year. Classes will be held every

other Tuesday afternoon at 4pm beginning in October.

Confirmation classes will follow the same structure, with classes and calls on Sunday evenings.

Youth Group (grades 5-7) will also continue once per month on Sunday evenings.

Please go to our website at Charlestowncatholic.com to register

If you are planning a Wedding, or 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...

Contact us at the Parish office at 617.242.4664 or email

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



BANNS OF MARRIAGE

**I. Kyle Bryant
&
Lauren Leger**

*We are grateful
to you!*

Log onto our website at
**Charlestown
Catholic.org!**

Find bulletins and Mass times for both parishes and view the latest recorded Sunday Mass.

We have music, news from Harvest on Vine, pictures, and more.

You may donate to the Parishes or its various ministries by selecting the Donate tab.

Welcome

We extend a warm welcome to all visitors and those who are new to our parishes. If you're new to Francis de Sales or St. Mary—St. Catherine of Siena Parish, please visit our website for events and resources.

Please register online at:
charlestowncatholic.org

St. Mary - St Catherine of Siena

UPCOMING COLLECTIONS

September 8 Monthly

September 15 clergy

September 29 Mission Efforts

October 13 Monthly

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.

St. Francis de Sales

UPCOMING COLLECTIONS

September 1 Capital Improvement

September 15 Clergy Benefit

September 22 Parish Deficit

October 6 Capital Improvement

COMMUNITY NEWS & INFO



RCIA (The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)

is a program for Catholics who have not had the opportunity to receive the Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation; for Adults who are members of another religion or have never been baptized and want to know more about and perhaps become a member of the Catholic faith.

For more information, call Fr. John at 617-242-4664
or email him at jsheridan8699@gmail.com.

Stay connected when away from the Parish.

- If you would like a bulletin mailed to you, please contact the office
- Visit our website to view the latest bulletin (under resources)
- Watch our live-streamed 11:00 Mass every week on our website or Facebook page

PLEASE REMEMBER THE POOR BOXES AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH!
AND OUR FOOD PANTRY
Thank you!



Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass (11/3)

All couples celebrating their 10th, 25th, or 50th wedding anniversaries or another special milestone are invited to a celebratory Mass on Sunday, Nov. 3 at 3:pm at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, Boston. Couples will renew their marriage commitment and receive a special blessing. Family and friends are invited to attend. To register, visit bit.ly/CelebrateAnniversary. For more info, please email Emily Elliott at marriageprep@rcab.org or call 617-746-5756.

Morning of Reflection for Catechists (9/21)

September 21st, 9am-12pm, St. Brigid in Lexington

All catechists and faith formation leaders are invited to join the Morning of Reflection for Catechists. The morning will include prayer, breakfast and fellowship, a talk/reflection, Mass, and a commissioning. Come as an individual catechist or sign up with your parish. Return to your parish affirmed in your important ministry, strengthened through prayer, and encouraged by brothers and sisters in Christ. <https://www.evangelizeboston.com/event/morning-of-reflection-for-catechists/>

A Vision for Youth Ministry (9/26, 9/27, 9/28)

We all desire for young people to encounter Christ and to follow Him. Please plan on joining the Secretariat for Evangelization and Discipleship and Andrew Ministries for important discussions on the Archdiocese of Boston's vision for youth ministry. Parish teams (clergy, staff, and volunteers) who engage in any ministry with youth are invited to one of the sessions ([9/26](#), [9/27](#), or [9/28](#)) that works best with their schedules.

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 (9 am – 5 pm).

Fall dates are Saturdays, Sept. 28 and Nov. 16. Locations are confidential. For more information on the retreats or other services, contact *Project Rachel* at 508.651.3100 or help@projectrachelboston.com.

Fr. John is a Project Rachel priest.



Parish Councils

Collaborative Finance Council

Collaborative Pastoral Council

Stewardship Committee

Liturgical Ministries

Altar Servers

Eucharistic Ministers

Lectors

Music Ministry

Worship Committee

Faith Formation

Adult Confirmation/RCIA

Baptism Prep

Confirmation

Religious Ed K – 8

Spiritual Committee

Wedding Committee

Social Ministries

Family Ministry

Social Ministry

Social Justice Committee

St. Francis Hall Committee

*Could you share some time
and help us do His work?*

If so, please reach out to

Fr. John.

*Please share your talents
with us!*



FAMILY LIFE:

TO WALK AS ONE



Someone coined the phrase “cafeteria Catholic” a few years ago. It referred to Catholics who would pick and choose the teachings of the Church that they wanted to follow or that they thought were ‘reasonable.’ They set themselves up as the judge of what a Catholic was supposed to believe and what you could set aside. Unfortunately, many of them looked at church the same way we look at a cafeteria—let’s get in and out as quickly as we can. Some never came back for seconds.

prosperity. Let’s assume for a moment that the Church is indeed led by the Spirit and what is revealed is God’s Will. Then the Commandments and Beatitudes, and the dogma and doctrine of the Church mean something more than pick and choose. We are asked to be loyal and true to the Church, the whole Church, and nothing but the Church, so help us, God. We stake our life on what we believe and ask the Lord to save us. Be sure to know what the Lord in turn asks of us.

-Jim Gaffney

In this small space, let’s give the church the benefit of thousands of years of experience, the lives and souls of countless millions, the ability to weather storms and enjoy

In Word & Deed

(continued from front)

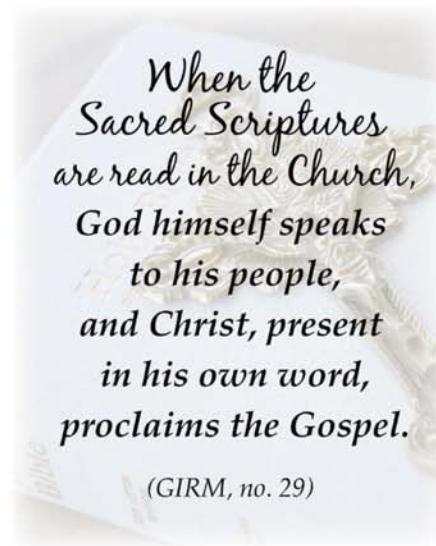
any credit and they quickly forget all that He has said and done for them. They dismiss him as crazy or strange and go on with their lives. Even the Apostles express some doubt. But it was Peter who voiced their loyalty and faith: we are convinced you are God’s holy one. They may not have fully understood, but they knew Jesus was the real deal.

Discipleship is about loyalty and faithfulness. It is about perseverance and persistence. We are not fair-weather believers, nor are we easily distracted from our work. We have seen what the Lord can do and we take Him at His word. Do not worry about tough times or difficult moments. We play on a winning team!

-Jim Gaffney

Lord our God, give your people the joy of hearing your word in every sound and of longing for your presence more than for life itself. May all the attractions of a changing world serve only to bring us the peace of your kingdom which this world does not give.

• Roman Rite •



I do not seek to understand that I may believe, but I believe in order to understand. For this I believe — that unless I believe, I should not understand.



St. Anselm of Canterbury

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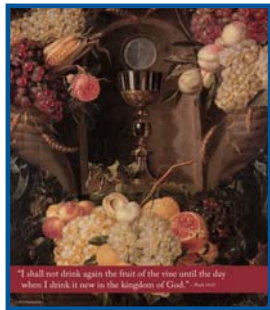
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