

# CHARLESTOWN CATHOLIC COLLABORATIVE

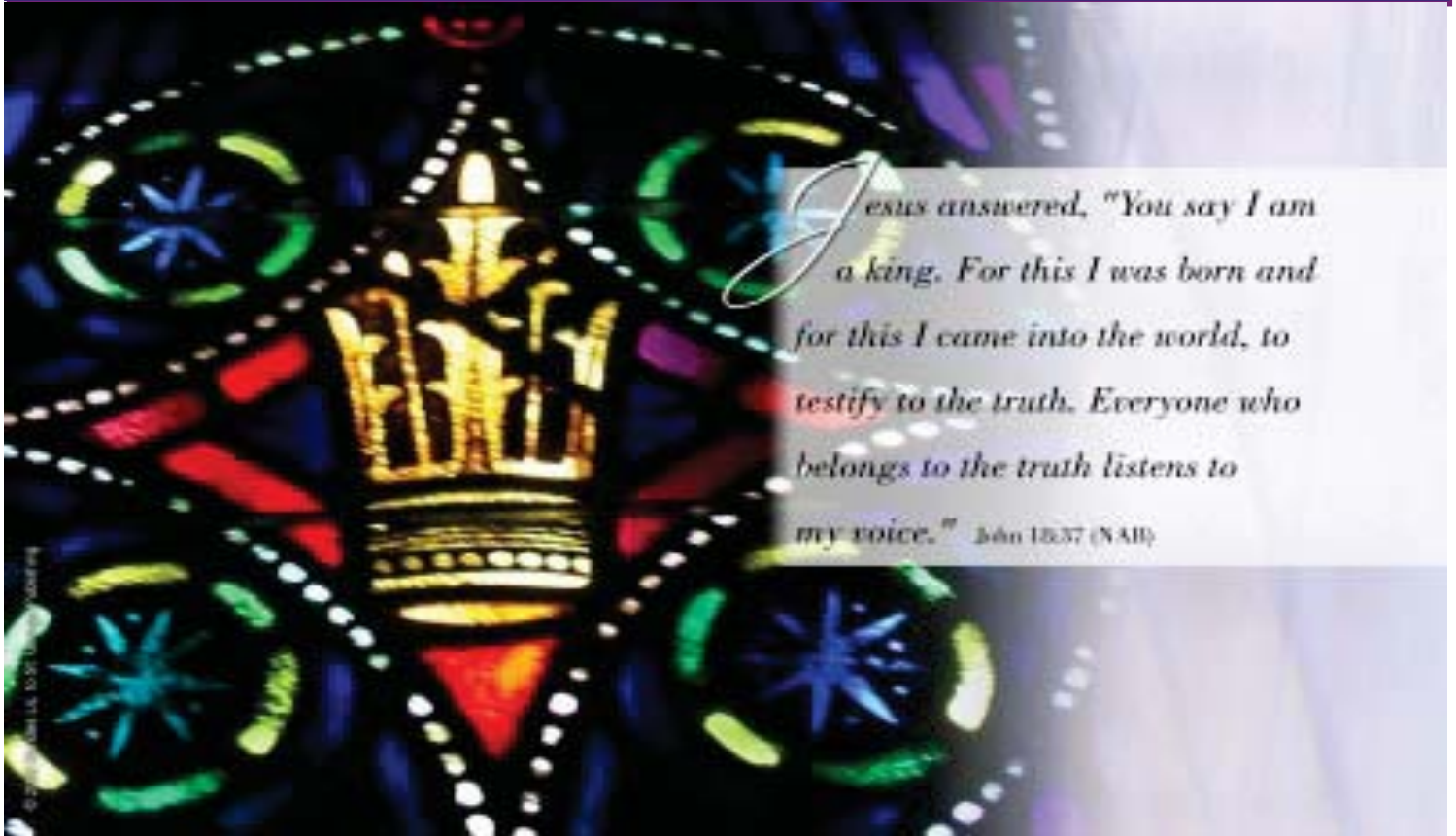
Saint Mary–Saint Catherine of Siena and Saint Francis de Sales Parishes

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

November 24, 2024



*Jesus answered, "You say I am a king. For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." John 18:37 (NAB)*

## 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

### Daily

8:00 am Masses – Mon through Fri  
St. Catherine Chapel at St. Mary Church  
Saturdays at 9 am, Holidays at 9 am

### 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  
Msgr. Felix Ojimbo

### Email

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

## ALL HANDS ON DECK!



Both Parishes could use some helping hands to clean the interior of the Churches for Christmas.

**Saturday, December 21**

**9 am— St Mary Church**

**2 pm— St Francis de Sales Church**

Come join us for this important activity! If you can spare some time, please let us know - 617-242-4664 or email [dludy@charlestowncatholic.org](mailto:dludy@charlestowncatholic.org)



## Ushers & Greeters Needed

Both Parishes will need Ushers and Greeters for Christmas Masses. Please let Fr. John know if you would like to help out.



## HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

We're thankful for all of our wonderful parishioners and hope you all enjoy time with family and friends.

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

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

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

**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.

## Faith Formation!

Confirmation prep will meet after the 6 pm Mass on Sunday, Dec 1.  
K-4 classes will meet on Tuesday, Nov. 26 in the Collaborative Center

**Symbolon meets Monday, Nov. 25 at St. Catherine's Chapel at 7 pm!**



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

## A Season of Healing and Hope



Join us for an Advent Prayer Mission **Dec. 2-4** as we prepare our hearts, minds and souls for the coming King!

Monday 6:30 pm @ St. Mary's Church  
**Advent Penance Service**

Tuesday 6:30 pm @ St. Francis Church  
**Mass with Sacrament of Anointing**

Wednesday 6:30 pm @ St. Francis Church  
**Joanne Grota Mercier on Hope**

## Christmas Mass Schedule

**Eve: 4 pm in both churches**  
**Day: 9:30 am at St. Francis**  
**8 am & 11 am at St. Mary's**

## The stockings were hung by the chimney...



Our Youth Group is looking for new, packaged socks to give to those in need as the weather gets colder. Boxes are in the churches and at 46 Winthrop!

**Catechist Blessing** Join us as we bless our teachers, eucharistic ministers and lectors Sunday at the 11 am Mass at St. Mary's.



## The Giving Tree is up

Help us to reach out to make Christmas happier and warmer for those in need!

## Coming soon!

**WREATH WORKSHOP**  
BABY & BOYIE BOUQUETS  
**DECEMBER 5, 2024 | 6PM**  
**BISHOP LAWTON HALL**  
**\$50 PER PERSON**  
VENMO: @KATHLEEN-NOONAN-8

CELEBRATING 250 YEARS  
BATTLE OF BUNKER HILL  
2025 PARADE COMMITTEE

THIS YEAR WE ARE FUNDRAISING FOR THE 2025 BUNKER HILL DAY PARADE, WHICH WILL COMMEMORATE THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF BUNKER HILL.



*St. Mary—St Catherine of Siena and  
Friends of the Charlestown Library Present  
The Beatrice Master Singers  
3:00 December 8th, at St. Mary  
Church, 55 Warren Street  
(617) 242-4664  
handicapped accessible  
[www.charlestowncatholic.org](http://www.charlestowncatholic.org)*

**The concert is free with a suggestion of donations to Harvest on Vine Food Pantry.**

The Beatrice Master Singers will bring another popular hour-long program of familiar carols and anthems in interesting arrangements, mostly by David Wilcocks and John Rutter. An organ solo, and the congregational singing in the carol “Deck the Halls” and the hymns “O’ Come All Ye Faithful” and “Hark, The Herald Angels Sing,” will once more ring in the festive season. Come join us!

**SUNDAY, DEC. 8th  
IS THE FEAST OF THE  
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION.**

**This year we will celebrate the Feast  
on that Monday  
with 9 am Mass at St. Mary Church  
and 6 pm Mass at St. Francis de Sales.  
It is a Holy Day of Obligation**



**Sanctuary Lamps**

The red light near the tabernacle is known as the Sanctuary Lamp. A lit Sanctuary Lamp signifies the presence of God in the tabernacle that contains the Eucharist.

You can request the candle be lit in honor of living or deceased family members or friends. The lamp is generally requested in memory of a deceased family member on their birthday or anniversary. The lamp is lit 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and lasts for one week (Sunday through Saturday).

If you would like to have the candle lit for someone, please call the parish office at 617.242.4664. The cost of the candle is \$15.00.

**GIVING TREES!**

As is our tradition, the giving trees are up! Your generosity to someone in need this Christmas, will bring a smile and provide .....  
please see specifics below:

- **St. Mary Center for Woman & Children—**
- **Charlestown Recovery House** - please give a gift card, example Target, Dunkin Donuts, CVS gift card.
- **Veterans’ Shelter** – please give a gift card, example Target, Dunkin Donuts, CVS gift card. There are also tags for socks, hats, gloves and scarves.
- **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, toothpaste, 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 in the collection baskets, at the back of the Church or brought to the parish office. **Please indicate who the donation is for on the outside of the envelope.** Please submit your donations by December 18th for distribution on **Friday, Dec.20.**

# Harvest on Vine Food Pantry

## Recent Improvements

Harvest on Vine began in 2003 with seven families. Today we serve 702 families, comprised of 1,525 people. In the past 18 months we've made the following advancements.

We purchased an 8' x 10' walk-in freezer that holds 4,000 pounds of food. The IBEW donated their services to install the needed electricity. Our expansion matches the Greater Boston Food Bank's expansion, giving us the maximum benefit they offer. Money from a grant paid for the freezer.

We upgraded our client check-in system with an application called Oasis. The Greater Boston Food Bank provided Oasis at no cost. They also provided training. Each client now has a membership card with a barcode. The system keeps accurate counts, counts that are needed when applying for funding.

We partnered with Mishawum Park and the Greater Boston Food Bank to put in place a mobile market. Each month we transport truckloads of food to Mishawum's community center and distribute the goods on site. The Mishawum team is doing outstanding work.

We joined up with the City of Boston's Office for Food Justice (OFJ). The OFJ assessed our operation and advised us on how to better serve the clients. We discussed at length the anxiety our clients experienced while waiting in line, sometimes for three hours. The assessment led to a change. We now have two lines going simultaneously, cutting the wait time in half.

We teamed up with the Kennedy Center to buy tons of fresh produce for our families. The program provided a nutritional boon for a community that is designated a food desert. Our clients live below the poverty line, and most of them don't have cars to get to supermarkets.

We always need more volunteers, especially since we changed to a two-line system. If you would like to volunteer, email [tmacdonald@stmaryscatherine.org](mailto:tmacdonald@stmaryscatherine.org) or call 617-990-7314.

## November 2024

### **Winter coat distribution with the St. Vincent De Paul Society**

A passionate supporter of Harvest on Vine made inroads with the charitable branch of Ocean State Job Lots. As a result, Ocean State donated 600 winter coats. The St. Vincent De Paul Society, along with Harvest on Vine volunteers, sorted the merchandise, organized the families, and distributed the coats over a three-day period.

### **Thanksgiving turkey distribution – Tuesday 11/26 1PM**

Harvest on Vine will be giving out 550 Thanksgiving baskets this year. This annual event has become an expensive undertaking. The Bunker Hill Associates and the Charlestown Mothers Association teamed up to raise money for the effort. Donations can also be made on the Charlestown Catholic Collaborative webpage.



## **Remembering Loved Ones Who Have Gone To God**

At all of our Masses on the weekend of December 16, 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.

*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 under-going 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)*

## Charlestown Catholic Collaborative

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

Saturday, November 23

9 am

4 pm

4 pm + Emmett R. Pulliam, Jr.

Sunday, November 24

8 am

9:30 am + William F. Rae, Sr.

11 am

6 pm

Monday, November 25

8 am

Tuesday, November 26

8 am

Wednesday, November 27

8 am

Thursday, November 28 Thanksgiving *Office closed*

8 am

9:30 am

Friday, November 29

*Office closed*

9 am

Saturday, November 30

9 am

4 pm

4 pm + John B. Carven

Sunday, December 1—1st Sunday of Advent

8 am

9:30 am **Memorial Mass for Bishop Edward Lawton**

11 am + Marie & Thomas Muldoon, Beatrice & Thomas

Muldoon & Eleanor & Robert Emery

6 pm

# CHARLESTOWN CATHOLIC

*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](mailto:info@charlestowncatholic.org)

*The Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered at 3:30 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)*

## The Advent Faith Sharing Group

Will meet after the 8 am morning Mass on Tuesdays beginning Nov. 26 in the St. Catherine Siena chapel. Kathy Devaney will facilitate the Advent reflections.

All are invited.

*Next Week, December 1st is the First Sunday of Advent.*

*We will be lighting the Advent Wreath at all the Masses.*

**FYI:** The Rosary begins at 7:35 am before every daily Mass and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy is said at the conclusion of each daily Mass. Please pray with us.



For Both Parishes

For those who would like to make

a donation in memory of a loved one by placing flowers on the Altar for Christmas, please submit their name/names to the office no later than Thursday, Dec. 12.

Those names will be in the bulletin for Christmas. All names received after that date will be added to a future bulletin.

You may drop an envelope with the name of your loved one in the collection basket or mail to the Parish Center at 46 Winthrop Street.

*Thank you.*

St Mary St Catherine  
 Weekend of Nov 17  
 Parishioners contributed  
 \$4,808.06.78  
 to the weekly collection  
 And \$975.00 to Hurricane  
 Relief



St Mary—St Catherine of Siena  
 11/16  
 4 pm 78  
 11/17  
 8 am 61  
 11 am 113  
 6 pm 69  
 Total 321

St Francis de Sales  
 Weekend of Nov 17  
 Parishioners contributed  
 \$2,094.00  
 to the weekly collection

St. Mary - St Catherine of Siena  
 UPCOMING COLLECTIONS  
 November 24 Retired Sisters  
 December 8 Monthly  
 December 15 Parish Christmas  
 December 25 Clergy Benefit

St Francis de Sales  
 11/16  
 4 pm 27  
 11/17  
 9:30 am 91  
 Total 118

St. Francis de Sales  
 UPCOMING COLLECTIONS  
 November 24 Retired Sisters  
 December 1 Capital Improvement  
 December 8 Immaculate Conc.  
 December 15 Parish Deficit  
 December 25 Clergy Benefit

# COMMUNITY NEWS & INFO



Pictured above are James Mahoney and Melanie Bete who were married at St Mary Church on November 16th.

**Thanksgiving Day Masses**  
 8:00 am St Mary Church  
 9:30 am St Francis de Sales Church



*Requiescant in Pace*  
 Alton Robert Hanscom

 BANNES OF MARRIAGE  
 II. Shawn Dilworth & Kellie O'Connor  
 II. Rory Corcoran & Caroline Finnegan



Saint Mary Church  
 Sanctuary Lamp is lit for  
 The Ryan Family

*We are grateful to you!*

## November 24 ~ Solemnity of Christ the King, King of the Universe

In our gospel today Pilate is questioning Jesus about his kingship. Jesus chooses instead to tell Pilate and us why he came into the world. He came to tell us the truth about God, to witness to the truth - the truth about ourselves, and the truth about life. This last Sunday of the liturgical year calls us to take a truthful inventory on our life of faith. We might start by asking ourselves - if Jesus is the center of our life, how frequently do we pray, or receive Holy Communion, or go to Confession? Do we listen attentively to what we hear in scriptures each week for what God is saying? Are charitable actions an expression of our love of God? It's the end of the year, what will our faith life inventory reveal that needs to be strengthened or changed??



Terminamos el año litúrgico con la fiesta de Cristo Rey. Un título hermoso para el Señor que es buen pastor, el mejor maestro, nuestro sumo sacerdote y el último profeta. En esta última celebración del calendario litúrgico le saludamos y celebramos como nuestro Rey.

Los reyes de la tierra son pasajeros. Su poder se mide por los ejércitos que tienen y su reino es efímero. Son seres mortales como nosotros. El presidente de USA dura cuatro u ocho años y es poderoso porque tiene un arsenal de bombas para matar y millones de dólares para comprar y sobornar al que quiera.

Jesús nos dice en el evangelio de hoy : "Mi reino no es de acá", mi reino no es como los de acá. Pero yo quiero reinar también acá, en las corazonas de los hombres y mujeres que son de la verdad y que escuchan mi voz.

Feligreses del Pilar, estamos aquí reunidos para darnos un buste. Estamos aquí con las baterías descargadas y viejas. No hay energía y el coche no arranca. Sí, hermanos, el Señor, nuestro rey, nos da un buste para que lo podamos proclamar como Señor y decirle: Tuyo es el reino, tuyo el poder y la gloria por siempre.

En los tiempos de la persecución del presidente Calles de Méjico, en 1926-29, los cristianos morían gritando: Viva Cristo Rey y la virgen de Guadalupe. Así reconocían a Cristo como el último y único rey de sus vidas.

A Jesucristo lo podemos llamar de mil maneras, lo de menos son los títulos, lo importante es el trabajo, la misión que Él realizó entre nosotros. Pilato le preguntó: "Tu nación te ha entregado a mí. ¿Qué has hecho? Y Jesús le contestó: "Ser testigo de la verdad". ¿Qué has hecho? Vivir para los demás. ¿Qué has hecho? Anunciar el reino de Dios. Anunciar un nuevo orden de cosas, una nueva manera de relacionarse con Dios y con los hermanos. ¿Qué has hecho? Enseñar a amar de una manera nueva, sin egoísmo pero con pasión, sin pedir nada a cambio, dándolo todo y a todos los que nadie ama. ¿Qué has hecho? Ser testigo de la verdad y la verdad es que Dios es amor. Y el buste que todos necesitamos es el del amor de Dios. Sólo él ama de verdad.

Jesús, el rey de la gloria, de la verdad y del amor, hoy, nos pregunta también a nosotros: ¿Qué has hecho? ¿A quién eliges en tu vida? ¿Estás satisfecho con tus mentiras o eliges la verdad? ¿Qué quieres, tener más cosas o ser más persona? ¿Qué buscas, tener más poder o ser más servicial? ¿Ser súbdito del presidente o ser súbdito del Señor? Nuestro rey es humilde y pobre; no tiene ejércitos, ni bombas, ni fronteras, ni policías, ni aduanas, ni cárceles. Es un reino abierto a todos los que hacen el bien y un rey que ama a todos con pasión.



### An Invitation to Women of All Ages

Our Women's Group resumed gathering in mid-October and want to extend an invitation to women of all ages to join us for prayer, scripture reading, and conversation.

Welcome the opportunity with other women to take an hour out of your busy day from the comfort of your home to breathe, reflect, and give gratitude to our God who sustains us. Come to our next gathering and see if it is a good fit for you. We will meet via ZOOM on **Wednesday, Nov. 13** from 6:30 to 7:30pm. Contact Sr. Nancy Citro, SNDdeN via email: [nmcitro@gmail.com](mailto:nmcitro@gmail.com) and she will send you a link to the meeting.

### COLLECTION FOR RETIRED

#### SISTERS - Today, November 24th

Today's second collection is used to assist religious communities to provide for the retirement and health care needs of Sisters who have served in the Archdiocese. Please take this opportunity to say thank you to the Sisters who have served the Church of Boston so generously for so many years. Your contribution does make a difference.



## Christmas Eve Youth Choir Information

Hello Youth of The Charlestown Catholic Collaborative!

We are excited to begin our annual youth choir for the Christmas Eve Mass at St. Mary- St Catherine Church! Jean Grace, our Youth Choir Director and John Volpe, Director of Music will be leading this year and we need your help!

We kindly ask for a commitment by 11/20 and we also ask that all interested are between the ages of 5-13. Rehearsals will be simplified this year to better accommodate everyone's busy schedules.

Rehearsal Schedule:



Sunday 11/24 9:30am- 10:15am

Sunday 12/1 9:30am- 10:15am

Sunday 12/8 9:30am- 10:15am

Sunday 12/15 9:30am- 10:15am

Sunday 12/22 9:30am- 10:15am

Parents, if you would like your child to participate, please email Jean Grace at [jean-grace@yahoo.com](mailto:jean-grace@yahoo.com) or call (626) 926-5178. When emailing please include the following information:



Your Name

Child's Name

Age

Cellphone Number

Emergency Contact and their phone number.

This year, the youth will be helping us lead in Christmas Carols beginning at 3:30 on Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at St Mary- St. Catherine Parish. In addition, they will be singing "Silent Night" in a round with "Night of Silence" at Communion/Nativity Story time at the end of Mass. Families of singers will have priority front row seating and for extra support we will also be recordings and music after the first rehearsal.

Voices of children bring immense joy to enhance the magic of Christmas during Mass.

With Sincere Thanks,  
Jean Grace & John Volpe

### THANKSGIVING OFFICE HOURS

**FYI:** The office will be closed on Thanksgiving Day, November 28 as well as on Friday, November 29.

Thanksgiving Masses are 8 am at St Mary and 9:30 am at St Francis de Sales. The daily Mass on Friday will be at 9:00 am and we encourage you to attend if you are able.

Should you have an emergency and need someone in the pastoral staff, please call and the answering service will contact the pastoral staff for you.

We wish you all a very blessed Thanksgiving.



### 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!*



# THANKS TO THESE SPONSORS WE ARE ABLE TO PROVIDE YOU WITH YOUR BULLETIN FREE EACH WEEK

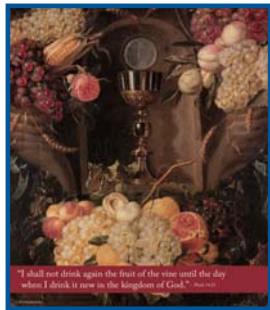
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