## 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 December 15, 2024



## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Philippians 4:4

## 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

## Great ways to give!

#### Donate Stock

Support the Parish and save on capital gains taxes.

The gift of common stock or mutual fund shares is a valuable way to make a contribution to the Parish and receive tax benefits based on the value of the stock(s).

By donating the stock, the charity receives more than it would receive if you first sold the stock and then donated the proceeds after deducting capital gains taxes. Also, you receive a greater tax deduction by giving the stock directly to the charity and avoiding the capital gains tax. For more information on how to donate stock, please contact James Santosuosso, Business Manager at 617-242-4664, or JSantosuosso@charlestowncatholic.org.

### Corporate Matching

Some companies such as John Hancock, Fidelity, and many others, have "Charitable Gift" funds that will match, or partially match gifts donated to non profit organizations, which include Churches. Some parishioners are using this to match their **Grand Annual Donation**. If your company will match your contributions to the Parish, please consider contacting them for more information.

Thank you for your most generous support of our Parishes!

Just a reminder that if you took a tag from the Giving Tree ..... all gifts are due by the 20th of December.

You can bring them to the Parish Office 46 Winthrop Street weekdays from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

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!

K-4 classes will meet on Tuesday, January 7 4 - 5 pm at 46 Winthrop.

Confirmation prep will meet after the 6 pm Mass Sunday, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>.

## Christmas Schedule

Eve: 4 pm in both churches

Day: 8 am at St. Mary's 9:30 am at St. Francis 11 am at St. Mary's

The Christmas collection is for retired priests of the Archdiocese

January 1- Feast of Mary 9:30 am at St. Francis 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!

## Such an easy way to give!

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



## 20 Classic Christmas Movies

Looking for some classic Christmas movies to watch with your family? Check out this curated list from the movie review team at Catholic News Service.

The following movies have been evaluated by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops according to artistic merit and moral suitability. See reviews, including the USCCB rating, the Motion Picture Association of America rating, and a brief synopsis of the movie, at catholiccurrent.org/living-the-faith/classic-christmas-movies

Browse your TV listings, video store shelves, or your movie service website to find one of these classic gems and recent favorites to share with your family.

- · The Bells of St. Mary's (1945)
- The Bishop's Wife (1947)
- A Christmas Carol (1951)
- A Christmas Carol (2009)
- A Christmas Story (1983)
- · Christmas with the Kranks (2004)
- Come to the Stable (1949)
- The Fourth Wise Man (1985)
- Fred Claus (2007)
- It's a Wonderful Life (1946)
- Joyeux Noel (2006)
- Miracle on 34th Street (1947)
- The Muppet Christmas Carol (1992)
- The Nativity Story (2006)
- The Polar Express (2004)
- Prancer (1989)
- The Shop Around the Corner (1940)
- Three Godfathers (1948)
- White Christmas (1954)

Coming Friday, Dec. 20 at 5:30 pm to St. Francis!



Join us for this different Christmas film. We'll have pizza, popcorn and surprises! All for free!

Congratulations

To our

Wedding Couples!





Rory Corcoran & Caroline Finnegan

Welcome to our newest members who were Baptized on Sunday, December 8





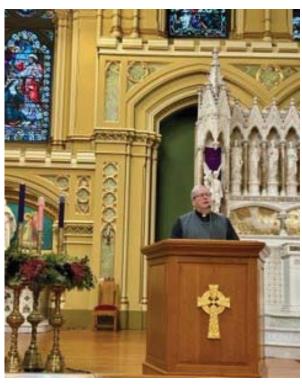






Pictured here in the choir loft are the members of the Beatrice Master Singers who were here for a concert on Sunday December 8th (in case you missed it)

All proceeds went to our Harvest on Vine Pantry





# **ALL HANDS ON DECK!**Both Parishes could use some

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

Saturday, December 21 9:30 am—St Mary Church 2:00 pm—St Francis de Sales Church

Come join us for this important activity!

## SAND DOLLAR TREE

At all of our Masses this weekend 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.

# Charlestown Catholic Collaborative

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

Saturday, December 14-John of the Cross

9 am

4 pm + Peg O'Brien

4 pm + Lesley Hauser

Sunday, December 15

8 am + Gerald A. Wall

9:30 am + Margaret Sindoris

11 am + Christina Ryan

6 pm + Joan & Daniel Blake Sr.

Monday, December 16

8 am

Tuesday, December 17

8 am

Wednesday, December 18

8 am

Thursday, December 19

8 am

Friday, December 20

8 am

Saturday, December 21

9 am

4 pm + Joe, Kay, JP Murphy; Baby AJ Lavigne & Meehan, Lavigne & Duffy families

4 pm + Dorothy Collins; James Collins & deceased members of the Collins & O'Connell families

Sunday, December 22

8 am

9:30 am + Mary Farrell, William Farrell & Mary Connolly

11 am + Thomas Regan, Christina Ryan & The Salmon Family

6 pm + Elsa Forster Rowsey

# 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

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



## BANNS OF MARRIAGE

- 1. Laura & John
- I. Jake & Molly

## LOW GLUTEN HOSTS

We're happy to provide consecrated low gluten hosts. Please join the priest communion line and let him know that you need a low-gluten host.



# Sanctuary Lamps & Mass Intentions

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 birthdays or anniversaries. The lamp is lit 24 hours a day, 7 days a week 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.

St Mary St Catherine

Weekend of Dec. 8

Parishioners gave
\$8,602

to the weekly collection

And \$1,154 to the

Monthly collection

The concert raised

\$792 for Harvest on Vine

St. Mary - St Catherine of Siena UPCOMING COLLECTIONS December 15 Parish Christmas December 25 Clergy Benefit January 1 Solemnity of Mary January 12 Monthly January 26 Latin America St Mary-St Catherine of Siena

12/7
4 pm 60
12/8
8 am 62
11 am 134
6 pm 93
Total 349

Christmas Concert — 221 Immaculate Conception —49

#### St Francis de Sales

12/7 4 pm 39 12/8 9:30 am 76 Total 115

Immaculate Conception—

St Francis de Sales
Weekend of Dec. 8
Parishioners gave
\$1,496

And \$589 for the
The second collection

to the weekly collection

# St. Francis de Sales UPCOMING COLLECTIONS

December 15 Parish Deficit December 25 Clergy Benefit January 1 Solemnity of Mary January 5 Capital Improvement January 26 Latin America

# COMMUNITY NEWS & INFO

## WINTER 2024 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, Channel 7 WHDH and 56 WLVI.

Stay warm and safe!

If Boston Public Schools are closed due to winter weather, for safety reasons, the 8 am Mass will be suspended.



## **ONLINE GIVING**

Many have asked us how to contribute through online banking so that when they are not in the parish, they can continue to make their offertory collection and second collection donations.

This can be done easily by logging into your online banking account and entering St. Francis de Sales.

and entering St. Francis de Sales or St. Mary—St. Catherine as vendor/payee.

For St. Francis, please use 303 Bunker Hill St for the address.

For St. Mary – St. Catherine, please use 46 Winthrop Street. If you have any questions, please contact James Santosuosso at the Parish Office. Thank you for your continued generosity.



Saint Mary Church Sanctuary Lamp is lit for

Christina M. Ryan



## FYI:

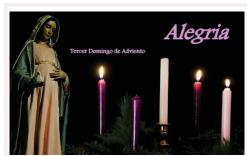
The Rosary begins at 7:35 am before every daily Mass and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy is said at the conclusion of each daily Mass. Please pray with us.



## December 15 ~ Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)

"Rejoice!" "Rejoice, in the Lord always." The response to the psalm text is even clearer, "Cry out with joy and gladness for great among you is the Holy One Israel." The message this week is clear. It is time to wake up to the fact that our God is among us and has been for ages past and for ages to come. This rejoicing that we do has everything to do with our faith, and on the very belief that "the Lord is near." In the remaining days of Advent make time each day to reflect on the times and places where you felt that the Lord

was with you, and then rejoice and give thanks that the Holy One is near.



## ¿QUÉ TENEMOS QUE HACER?

Cuentan que dos hermanos abrieron una carnicería en la calle Gascón de Gotor y el negocio les iba muy bien. La clientela estaba satisfecha con el servicio. Un domingo uno de los hermanos fue a la Eucaristía, oró, escuchó la Palabra de Dios y la predicación y decidió convertirse al Señor y cambiar de vida.

Éste le predicaba a su hermano y le invitaba a ir a la iglesia y dar el paso a la fe, pero no conseguía nada. ¿Por qué no quieres cambiar?, le preguntaba a su hermano. Éste le contestó: "Si acepto a Cristo y cambio ¿quién ya a pesar la carne? Cambiar, creer en Cristo, es un

cambio radical de conducta a nivel personal y profesional. El hermano no quería convertirse para poder seguir haciendo trampas. Comprendía la seriedad de la decisión y el riesgo que corría y las exigencias de la fe. Fe y vida van unidas, separadas no sirven de nada por más ritos religiosos que consumamos.

Una foto que ha dado la vuelta al mundo estos días ha sido la foto del policía de Nueva York arrodillado junto a un vagabundo tirado en una de las calles de la ciudad. Hacía frío y estaba descalzo. El policía se compadeció, fue a una tienda y compró unas botas muy caras y se las dio al vagabundo. Sabía lo que tenía que hacer y seguro que lo habrá hecho otras muchas veces. Decíamos el domingo pasado que "la Palabra de Dios vino sobre Juan, hijo de Zacarías, en el desierto". Palabra que interrumpió su vida y se dedicó a predicarla. Nadie tiene el monopolio de la Palabra, ni siquiera los curas. Dios y su Palabra pertenecen a todos los que la escuchan y la acogen. Todos llamados a ser predicadores.

Juan se convirtió en el predicador lleno de fuego y de ira, en el profeta bíblico que exigía decisión a favor del Mesías que bautiza con fuego y espíritu. Para llegar a Belén hay que pasar por el control de pasaportes que Juan tiene en el Jordán. Hay que quitarse los zapatos, el cinturón, dejar las llaves y las monedas y permitir que te chequee y te desnude de todas las maldades cometidas contra los hombres, tus hermanos. Como en todos los buenos sermones el predicador predica y los aludidos preguntan. La gente, nos dice el evangelio, preguntó a Juan: ¿Qué tenemos que hacer? Pregunta mágica que, a veces, tranquiliza y otras muchas anestesia.

Juan les dice y nos dice: No les manda dejar sus trabajos y convertirse en ascetas en las cuevas del desierto a imitación suya. No les pide que vayan al Templo de Jerusalén a ofrecer sacrificios y holocaustos. No les pide que hagan novenas y ramilletes espirituales. Las piadosidades de siempre están bien pero sirven de poco. La religión no es un escudo para aplacar y detener la ira de Dios sino una bendición para que cada uno de nosotros seamos bendición para los demás. Juan les dice y nos dice: COMPARTIR. "El que tenga dos túnicas que se las reparta a los que no tienen".

No basta con dejar de ser malo y no abusar y engañar a los demás. No basta con decir cada uno en su casa y Dios en la de todos. Arrepentirse y cambiar es difícil y tiene un precio. Nosotros acumulamos. Juan nos pide compartir los frutos de nuestro trabajo y los de nuestra fe. Zaqueo, un cobrador de impuestos como aquellos que escuchaban la predicación de Juan, se convirtió escuchando a otro predicador más famoso, a Jesús, y devolvió todo lo que había robado. A los soldados a sueldo de Roma les predica la no-violencia, no abusar de la autoridad de la fuerza, no extorsionar a nadie. Contentaos con la paga. Convertirse, cambiar, dejar sin mirar atrás porque lo que se encuentra es mucho mejor y más gratificante.

Adviento es mirar hacia delante, al futuro, y el futuro es Dios. Recuerden que uno nunca, nunca, se convierte del todo. La vida cristiana es siempre una carretera en obras. El día que dejamos de repararla es que Dios ya no viaja por ella. Abraham Lincoln solía ir a la iglesia presbiteriana todos los miércoles que estaba en Washington D.C. Un miércoles cuando salía de la iglesia uno de sus acompañantes le preguntó: Mr. President, que le ha parecido el sermón? Lincoln contestó: "El contenido fue excelente y Dr. Gurley habló con gran elocuencia. Es obvio que lo ha trabajado mucho".

Entonces cree que fue un gran sermón, Mr. President? No, no dije eso. Dije que el contenido fue excelente y que el predicador habló con gran elocuencia. Pero Dr. Gurley, esta noche, olvidó algo muy importante. Olvidó pedirnos que hiciéramos algo grande.





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December 25 collection is for Clergytrust

## GET INVOLVED IN OUNE OF **OUR MINISTRIES**

#### 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

## CODE -BREAKER!

The sentence below is to be found in one of today's readings. Can you break the code and write in the sentence? Here are two clues: Y = L and R = E.

## Crossword solution from last week



ONCGVMR JVGU GUR FCVEVG NAQ SVER

anit bno tinigs yloH ant ANSWER He will baptize you with

The Watertown Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH): An Irish Catholic organization, is hosting a Red Cross blood drive on Saturday December 28<sup>th</sup> from 9 AM to 2 PM. To schedule an appointment -

Visit <a href="https://www.redcrossblood.org/">https://www.redcrossblood.org/</a>

## Witness to Life Trip (1/23-1/25)

Join Boston pilgrims at the National March for Life in Washington, D.C. in January. We will depart the archdiocese at approximately 10 PM on Thurs., Jan. 23 and arrive at Life Fest at 7:30 AM on Fri., Jan. 24 and then head to the March. We will return to the archdiocese at 12:15 AM on Jan. 25. The cost is \$80 and includes bus, Life Fest ticket, driver gratuity, and boxed lunch. Visit bit.ly/WitnesstoLife2025 to register.



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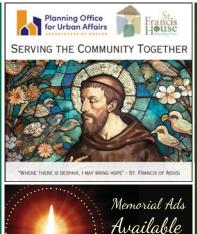
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www.sjs.edu/events



