

# CHARLESTOWN CATHOLIC COLLABORATIVE

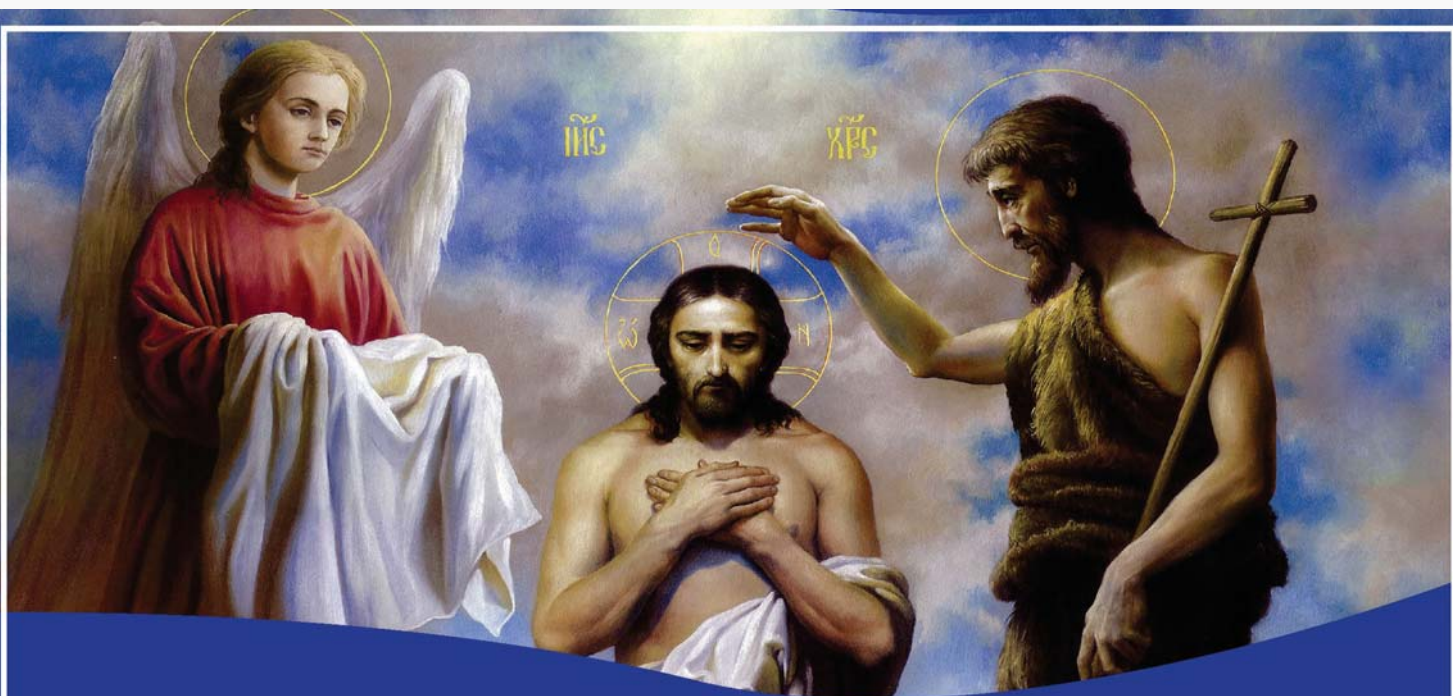
Saint Mary–Saint Catherine of Siena and Saint Francis de Sales Parishes

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

January 12, 2024



## The Baptism of the Lord

*“You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.” (Lk 3: 22)*

### 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 Ojimba

### Email

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

## January 12 ~ The Baptism of the Lord

Our gospel today recounts the story of Jesus' baptism and the important words spoken by God about Jesus, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." Imagine God saying these words to you, "You are my beloved. . . with you I am well pleased." Take time this week to think about the significance of the sacrament of baptism in your life: becoming a member of the Body of Christ – the Church, being given new life in Christ and marked with the sign of the cross. The grace flowing from baptism enlightens us to know the power of God's life-giving word and how we are to share it as disciples. While it may be challenging at times to do so, we have been given the grace to live out our baptismal call in our interactions with others. So, what are we waiting for?



The Winter Walk to end homelessness in Boston is Feb. 9th, 2025 starting at the Boston Common. For more information and/or to sign up, please go to

[winterwalk.org](http://winterwalk.org).

Please, consider joining the Charlestown Catholic Collaborative Team for this rewarding experience either by walking or donating!

Harvest on Vine, St Vincent de Paul Society, along with the Charlestown Community Closet are supporting this amazing fundraiser.

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.

## An amazing year

In 2024, our collaborative- our parishes- offered hundreds of weekend and daily Masses, celebrated scores of baptisms and brought over a hundred people to their rest in Jesus Christ, including our beloved Fr. Mahoney.

We married dozens of happy couples, brought three young adults into the fullness of the Catholic Church, and gave first reconciliation and communion to more than 40 boys and girls and celebrated as two dozen young men and women received the sacrament of Confirmation. We watched great movies, learned about our faith through Symbolon and prayed for our country on Election Day before the Blessed Sacrament.

We fed thousands of people week after week at Harvest on Vine and made the lives of hundreds easier with more dignity through our St. Vincent de Paul Society, the Giving Trees and a mind-blowing collection of cereal and socks, rejoiced in the years of faithful ministry of Sr. Nancy, said goodbye and hello to priests in residence, prayed the rosary in honor of our Blessed Mother, and heard confessions and celebrated the Sacrament of Anointing countless times.

We went on a 10- day odyssey to Italy and kicked off the Christmas season early with the Rockettes at Radio City, hosted concerts and a world-class actor for a Lenten Mission- and excellent speakers and welcomed a new regional bishop and Archbishop, and that was just prelude for what lies ahead.

It was a year for the record books, and now we look up and look ahead to what the Holy Year 2025 has in store for us. I am grateful to our staff members, ministers, councils and committees, volunteers, donors, and everyone for every gift given this amazing year.

May God bless you and all you love as we wait in joyful hope for the blessings heading our way. Mary, Queen of peace, bless our parishes, our collaborative. Pray for us all.

## Jubilee Year 2025

As the Universal Church celebrates the Jubilee Year 2025 (the 2,025th anniversary of the Incarnation of our Lord), we support the Holy Father in this "**event of great spiritual, ecclesial, and social significance in the life of the Church.**"

Pope Francis stated in his February 2022 letter announcing the Jubilee 2025: "We must fan the flame of

hope that has been given us and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision. The forthcoming Jubilee can contribute greatly to restoring a climate of hope and trust as a prelude to the renewal and rebirth that we so urgently desire..."

The Jubilee Year will offer the faithful opportunities to participate in various jubilee events at the Vatican and in their own dioceses. The great tradition of opening the Holy Door began when Pope Francis opened the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica on December 24, 2024.

Other holy doors will be opened at the Rome basilicas of St. John Lateran, St. Mary Major and St. Paul Outside the Walls. For pilgrims who cannot travel to Rome, bishops around the world are expected to designate their cathedrals or a popular Catholic shrine as special places of prayer for Holy Year pilgrims, offering opportunities for reconciliation, indulgences and other events intended to strengthen and revive faith.

*-United States Conference of Catholic Bishops*

## Jubilee Prayer from Pope Francis

Father in heaven, may the faith You have given us  
in Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Brother,  
and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts  
by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us  
the blessed hope for the coming of  
Your Kingdom.

May Your grace transform us  
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.  
May those seeds transform from within  
both humanity and the whole cosmos  
in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth,  
when,  
with the powers of Evil vanquished,  
Your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us,  
Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven.  
May that same grace spread the joy and peace  
of our Redeemer throughout the earth.  
To You our God, eternally blessed,  
be glory and praise for ever. Amen!

*St. Mary-St. Catherine of Siena  
Mass Intentions*

Saturday, January 11  
4 pm + Kelly King

Sunday, January 12  
8 am  
11 am + Barbara Duggan  
6 pm

Monday, January 13  
8 am

Tuesday, January 14  
8 am

Wednesday, January 15  
8 am

Thursday, January 16  
8 am

Friday, January 17  
8 am + Robert Joseph Clerkin

Saturday, January 18  
4 pm + Rose Walsh

Sunday, January 19  
8 am  
11 am Parishioner Intentions  
6 pm

*St. Francis de Sales  
Mass Intentions*

Saturday, January 11  
4 pm Parishioner Intentions

Sunday, January 12  
9:30 am + Frank & Barbara Kelly



Saturday, January 18  
4 pm Parishioner Intentions

Sunday, January 19  
9:30 am

# CHARLESTOWN CATHOLIC

**Mass Intentions**—We are currently booking Mass Intentions for 2025. To book a Mass, please call the parish office at 617.242.4664.

**Sanctuary Candles**— To have a Sanctuary Candle lit in memory of a loved one, please contact the parish office. You may request one for St Francis des Sales, St Mary Church or the St Catherine of Siena Chapel.

**Sacrament of Baptism**—Baptisms are generally held on the 2nd Sunday of each month at St Mary Church. Baptisms at St Francis de Sales Church are scheduled with Fr. Sheridan. For all requests for Baptisms, please call the Parish Office to start the process. Classes are generally held on the 2nd Saturday at the Parish Office at noon. Parents and God parents should attend.

**Confessions**— For St. Francis de Sales Parish and St. Mary-St Catherine of Siena Parish. Confessions are held at 3:30 pm on Saturday's before the 4 pm Mass.

**Weddings**— All couples; Please access the request for wedding form on our website—Charlestowncatholic.org— Fr. Sheridan will contact couples after the form is submitted. Always feel free to call the Parish office with any questions.

**Daily Rosary**— St. Catherine of Siena Chapel before the daily Mass. Weekdays, 7:35 am (Mass is at 8 am)

**Saturday Rosary**—If you would like to pray the rosary with us on Saturday mornings via Zoom -Please email Donna at: [donna.lecam@gmail.com](mailto:donna.lecam@gmail.com)

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)

St Mary St Catherine

Weekend of Dec. 29

Parishioners gave

\$4,774.61

to the weekly collection

&

Weekend of Jan. 05

\$ 4,294.41 to the weekly collection

and

\$615.00 to the Holy Day collection

St Francis de Sales

Weekend of Dec. 29

Parishioners gave \$1,412.00

to the weekly collection

&

Weekend of Jan. 05

\$ 3,750.00

to the weekly collection

\$452.00 to the capital improvement

And \$380.00 to the

Holy Day Collection

St Mary—St Catherine of Siena

12/28

4 pm 70

12/29

8 am 32

11 am 88

6 pm 41

Total 231

1/04

4 pm 70

1/05

8 am 48

11 am 128

6 pm 50

Total 296



St. Francis de Sales

UPCOMING COLLECTIONS

January 26 Latin America

St. Mary - St Catherine of Siena

UPCOMING COLLECTIONS

January 26 Latin America

St Francis de Sales

12/28

4 pm 36

12/29

9:30 am 29

Total 65

1/4

4pm 53

1/5

9:30 am 54

Total 107

# COMMUNITY NEWS & INFO

## HUNGRY SUNDAY APPEAL

### THIS WEEKEND AT

### ST FRANCIS DE SALES

Every month on the Second Sunday of the month Saint Francis de Sales Parish conducts our Hungry Sunday Appeal for Charlestown's Harvest On The Vine Food Pantry. This weekend will be Hungry Sunday here in Saint Francis de Sales. We are asked to bring a non-perishable food item such as cereal, rice and soup to the Usher's Tables when we come to Mass.

Thank you.

## **Tax Season Coming Up!**

Would you like a statement of your Parish contributions?

Please email Dianne at [dludy@stmaryscatherine.org](mailto:dludy@stmaryscatherine.org) or call (617) 242-4664. Please include your full name and address with your request. Statements may take 3-5 business days to process.



Saint Francis de Sales Sanctuary Lamp is lit for the

Diane Connors



Saint Mary Church Sanctuary Lamp is lit for the

Mary Coffey & Patrick Curry



*In the Liturgical Calendar we are now entering Ordinary Time. This Sunday is the first Sunday of Ordinary Time*

***We extend a warm welcome to all visitors and those who are new to our parishes of St. Mary St.- Catherine of Siena and St. Francis de Sales Thank you for joining us!***

***We are grateful to you!***

**Coming Friday, Jan. 17 @ 5:30 pm  
to St. Mary's Hall!**



**Help us (and yourself) all year long!  
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!

**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](mailto: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*



**ADULT**  
**CONFIRMATION CLASSES -**  
**PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD**

Full adult membership in the Roman Catholic Church is achieved with the reception of the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation. Most Catholics born into our faith receive Baptism as infants and Eucharist in the second grade. Usually, Confirmation is received in the tenth Grade. Due to circumstances of all kinds, a significant number of adults have never received the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Maybe... It's Time:

To deepen your relationship with God who loves and cares about you.

To re-engage your world again as a Catholic more informed about your faith and its impact in your life.

To re-new yourself and others through the unique power of the Holy Spirit who guides us in Love and Truth.

Candidates 18 years of age or older will attend seven classes. 617-242-4664. for additional details and to register for the program.

**CORI Time**

To all our volunteers at St Mary-St Catherine of Siena Parish:

January is the month for our parish to complete CORI forms. A copy of the form will be emailed to volunteers upon request. You may have it notarized or bring it filled out to the Parish office or Church for approved staff member to verify your signature. Please bring your photo ID. Also, there will be blank CORI forms at the office and at the Church throughout the month for your convenience. All forms must be submitted by Friday, January 31, 2025. All those who have filled out a CORI form for Religious Education do not need to fill another one out.

Thank you for all that you do and for your help in getting the CORIs submitted in a timely manner. Feel free to call the office with any questions.

617.242.4664



## Webinar on Responsible Parenting (2/11)

Join Family Life on Tuesday, February 11 from 7:30 -8:30 PM for a webinar on responsible parenting within the home and the Church. Certified Catholic fertility care practitioners, Christen and Brandon Fitts and Monica and Victor Bergeron will share their witness and offer helpful information and resources related to responsible procreation, authentic fatherhood and motherhood, and the importance of nurturing the family as the domestic Church. Visit [bit.ly/ResponsibleParenthood2025](http://bit.ly/ResponsibleParenthood2025) for more information or to register.

## Mental Health Matters: A Virtual Workshop for Adults (2/25)

February 25 at 7 PM. Join Catholic psychologists Dr. Greg Kolodziejczak and Dr. Christine Williams, and LICSW Michael Drahos for a workshop examining how traditional mental health treatments, support, and faith play a role in healing. Q&A will be offered and resources provided. Sponsored by Family Life. To register, visit [bit.ly/mentalhealthadults](http://bit.ly/mentalhealthadults) or call Emily @ 617-746-5756.

## 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](http://bit.ly/WitnessToLife2025) to register.



Join thousands of Catholics nationwide in the annual Respect Life novena

*9 Days for Life*, Thursday, January 16 – Friday, January 24. Get daily intentions, brief reflections, and more by email or text message. Sign up at [9daysforlife.com](http://9daysforlife.com)!



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## Grand Annual Update

We are humbled and deeply grateful for the generosity of many that have contributed to the Grand Annual Collection.

To date:

St Mary–St Catherine of Siena Parish has collected \$42,993.00 towards a goal of \$60,000 (72%).

St Francis de Sales Parish has collected \$19,380 towards a goal of \$25,000 (78%).

There is still time to give. If you have not had an opportunity to contribute, please help us reach our goal.

As always, thank you for your continued generosity.



La celebración del Bautismo de Jesús en el Jordán, cuya fiesta celebramos hoy, cierra el tiempo de Navidad. Es verdad que el Bautismo de Jesús no tiene el mismo significado que el nuestro, por eso uno de los evangelistas, Mateo, que escribía para judíos, y por lo tanto podía no entender bien el gesto de Jesús, pone un diálogo entre Juan y Jesús en el que el primero se niega a bautizarlo, diciéndole que es Él el que lo tiene que bautizar, pero Jesús le pide ser bautizado, y le pide ser bautizado para darnos una nueva lección de humildad y de saber hacer, el evangelista aprovecha el rito del bautismo para presentar a Jesús como el Salvador esperado, como el Mesías.

Juan bautiza a Jesús al comienzo de su vida pública, es como la puesta en marcha de la misma. De los treinta años de vida oculta de Jesús con sus padres en Nazaret los evangelios no nos dicen nada, hay un silencio respetuoso sobre ella. Aunque nos gustaría saber cómo fue la vida durante esos treinta años en Nazaret, la verdad es que lo que verdaderamente nos interesa es lo que Jesús dijo e hizo en su vida pública y ésta es la que comienza después de su bautismo. Por lo tanto si queremos conocer y profundizar en el mensaje de Jesús tenemos que estar atentos a la palabra de Dios en los domingos que van a venir a partir de ahora hasta el tiempo de Cuaresma. En ellos iremos recorriendo el camino que Jesús realiza hasta Jerusalén, escuchando su mensaje, viendo cómo trata a las personas, contemplando sus gestos y aprendiendo de todo lo que dice y hace.

Juan nos presenta a Jesús como el enviado de Dios, el esperado por el pueblo, el anunciado por los profetas del Antiguo Testamento, es nuestro Salvador, nuestro Dios. Nos lo señala con el dedo, para que no tengamos ninguna duda y nos dice que es Él. Que dispongamos nuestro corazón para seguirle y nuestro oídos para escucharle. Efectivamente, Jesús es la referencia principal del cristiano, Él es el modelo fundamental. Las actitudes de Jesús deben ser las nuestras, la manera de comportarse de Jesús debe reflejarse en nuestro comportamiento, su talante, su modo de situarse ante las cosas, su manera de tratar a las personas, deberían ser imitados por nosotros. Pero, difícilmente puedo seguir y actuar como alguien que no conozco, o peor, que sólo conozco de oídas o porque otros me lo han dicho. No, debo ser yo quien descubra a ese Jesús, debo ser yo quien me preocupe por conocer lo que hizo, debo ser yo el que personalmente interiorice y haga mío, todo lo que ese Jesús me enseñó, sólo de esta manera Jesús podrá ser alguien significativo para mí.

El reflexionar hoy sobre el bautismo de Jesús, puede ser también un buen momento para reflexionar sobre el nuestro. Todos sabemos que el bautismo es el sacramento fundamental del cristiano, desde que me bauticé puedo decir que pertenezco a la Iglesia, de aquí la importancia que tiene el saber lo que se hace cuando se pide este sacramento, y que el mismo no tiene que responder a la sola presión social, sino más bien a la exigencia de ser transmisores de lo que creemos. Como perteneciente a la Iglesia, tengo la obligación de intentar vivir como esa pertenencia me exige, y mi conducta tendría que ser manifestación de sus exigencias, por eso hoy podríamos preguntarnos, ¿qué fidelidad tengo yo a lo que mis padres hicieron por mi el día de mi bautismo?, ¿he hecho mío aquel gesto? ¿he aceptado las consecuencias que lleva consigo estar bautizado?

Tendremos que reconocer que como casi siempre no encontramos en nosotros la fidelidad suficiente a lo que nuestra fe nos exige. Le pedimos con sinceridad al Señor, que nos de la fuerza necesaria para ser sus testigos fieles en este mundo nuestro, que nos haga valorar los sacramentos en los que su presencia se hace más real y mas evidente. Y lo hacemos al tiempo que seguimos pidiendo los unos por los otros, especialmente por los que menos tienen, para que el Señor los ayude, los que sufren, los enfermos, para que ya que son los preferidos del Señor, también lo sean los nuestros.



## FIESTA DEL BAUTISMO DEL SEÑOR

Que vivamos nuestro llamado bautismal para proclamar el Evangelio y ser mensajeros del amor de Dios para toda vida humana.



Únete a miles de católicos de todo el país rezando la novena anual nacional de Respetemos la Vida llamada *9 Días por la Vida*: jueves 16 de enero - viernes 24 de enero. Recibe intenciones diarias, reflexiones breves y más por correo electrónico o mensaje de texto. ¡Inscríbete en [respectlife.org/9-dias-por-la-vida!](http://respectlife.org/9-dias-por-la-vida!)

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**The Rosary in a Year with Fr. Mark-Mary Ames, CFR, launched at #1 on Apple Podcasts and has already surpassed 1 million downloads and views!**



It isn't too late to start a year devoted to the Rosary. Join Fr. Mark-Mary and faithful listeners worldwide on this daily journey with the Rosary. By starting small and adding on over time, you will find yourself falling more in love with this powerful Marian devotion, becoming a source of grace for the whole world.

The best place to listen to the podcast is in the Ascension App, which includes special features as well as full recordings of the Rosary. (Episodes are also available on Spotify and Apple Podcasts.)

"I didn't think I needed this because I already pray the Rosary daily ... it's not at all what I thought it would be. Thank you, God, for stirring my heart to give it a try. I listened to all 5 episodes ... absolutely beautiful! The meditations bring me to tears. I can't wait for Day 6!!!!"  
 -TeeCass-bl9ii on Facebook

Download the prayer plan at <https://ascensionpress.com/riy>.

## GET INVOLVED

### Parish Councils

Collaborative Finance Council  
 Collaborative Pastoral Council  
 Stewardship Committee

### Liturgical Ministries

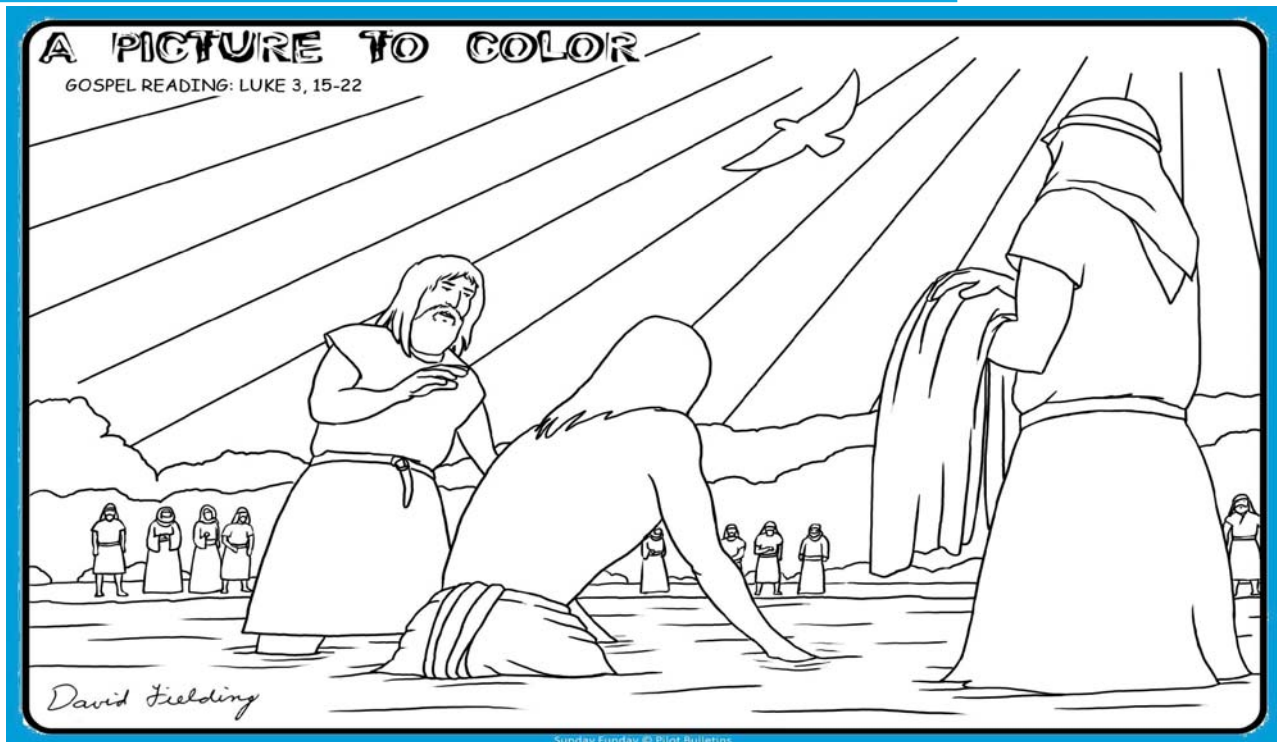
Altar Servers  
 Eucharistic Ministers  
 Lectors  
 Music Ministry  
 Worship Committee

### 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





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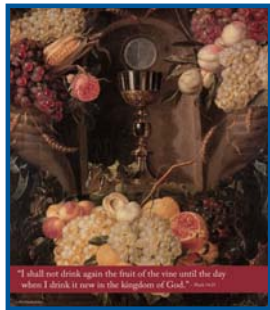
Enjoy the full color bulletin that will change weekly and may feature images to reflect the Gospel of the week or a meaningful Parish event.

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