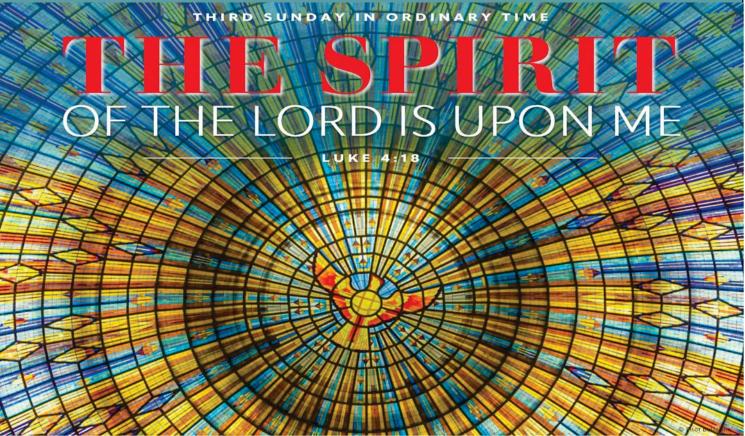
CHARLESTOWN CATHOLIC COLLABORATIVE

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 26, 2024



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 amSt. Mary- St. Catherine9:30 amSt. Francis de Sales11 amSt. Mary - St. Catherine6 pmSt. 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. Msgr. Felix Ojimba

Email info@charlestowncatholic.org

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.

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 organ-izations, 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.

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!

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.

My dear friends in Christ:

On Nov. 24, 2023, something new started in Charlestown. I began my pastorate at St. Francis de Sa

les and St. Mary- St. Catherine parishes, but more importantly, a new era began of collaboration. Both parishes had worked together for decades, shared celebration on the sacraments of our faith, but now we were taking a powerful new step, coming closer to unity- celebrating our uniqueness as families and working together as a collaborative. We began with a shared pastor and soon after, a finance and operations director, but this was just the beginning.

This is officially my third collaborative- it was my honor to be one of the first 12 pastors to embrace the Disciples in Mission Collaboration model. I took the reins in 2013—as pastor of Sacred Heart in Middleboro, Sts. Martha & Mary in Lakeville and St. Rose in Rochester (then, the Cranberry Catholic Collaborative), then in 2018, I was asked to serve as pastor of Our Lady of Grace in Chelsea and St. Mary of the Assumption in Revere & Everett (we became Blessed Mother of the Morning Star), and now Charlestown. I am called to give my time, prayer and efforts equally to both parish families, and at the same time, building them. This isn't my first rodeo.

The Collaborative process is challenging- for every place, each have plenty to bring to the mix different vision, experiences and understandings- it's important for the pastor to understand that like families, everyone has their own voice. It doesn't mean that everything changes immediately and that's it. There are parish traditions to respect, but there are so many things that already unite us. Harvest on Vine is such a blessing - I speak of it as the heart of our Collaborative. Bishop Lawton is an excellent hall. 46 Winthrop is a perfect host for our offices. Both churches hold a great deal of beauty and history- not just for our Town, but our city and Archdiocese.

A united Mass schedule, bulletin, collaborative offices, combined Faith Formation and Pastoral, Financial and Worship Committees begin the process of building families. Many parishes have had these in place for years, some have not- here we need to learn how we can together build effective, representative and responsive councils. Our Pastoral Council will be meeting soon to plan how.

As we are a collaborative, it's also important to note that the churches will retain their names. What we do together- more and more- will be reflected in the collaborative name we use.

Though support for the name Charlestown Catholic Collaborative is strong, I want to hear from you. Some early suggestions have been Holy Trinity and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton- the first American-born saint. I find this to be a helpful and creative process. I will present the name to Archbishop Henning, I know he will trust our judgment. Our Councils will be asked, and we'll all have an opportunity to choose a name or come up with our own throughout Lent.

It's important to note that although we share a great deal now and will share more, a merger has not taken

, we will merge our resources as one- if you have seen the numbers, I'm sure you see that, though challenging, they give great cause for hope. If and when that day comes, I am confident it will be managed expertly by our staff and Councils.

Over the next few weeks, as we develop our Councils, we will keep you updated. Please know this is a process of opening up to what we can and will do as the Catholic family. It's already been an extraordinary time since Nov. 2023. Let's look up and ahead to what can be. Our Blessed Mother, Francis de Sales and Catherine of Siena, pray for us. Together, let us be

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 25 4 pm + Geraldine Dorsey & John B. Carven, Jr.

Sunday, January 26

8 am + Roy McNeil 11 am + Francis X. Norton 6 pm

Monday, January 27 8 am Tuesday, January 28 8 am Wednesday, January 29 8 am Thursday, January 30 8 am Friday, January 31 8 am Saturday, February 1 4 pm Sunday, February 2

> 8 am 11 am + David Latta 6 pm

St. Francis de Sales Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 25 4 pm Parishioner Intentions

Sunday, January 26 9:30 am



Saturday, February 1 4 pm Parishioner Intentions

Sunday, February 2 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. John 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

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 St Mary St Catherine Weekend of January 19

Parishioners gave \$3,298.25 to the weekly collection

St Mary-St Catherine of Siena 1/18 4 pm 76 1/19 8 am 47 11 am 120 6 pm 29 Total 272

St. Mary - St Catherine of Siena UPCOMING COLLECTIONS

- Jan. 26 Latin America
- Feb. 2 Fuel
- Feb. 9 Monthly
- Feb. 23 Support Around the World



Requiescat in Pace

Anne M. Sullivan



Saint Mary Church Sanctuary Lamp is lit for Maureen Dewey

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. St Francis de Sales Weekend of January 19 Parishioners gave \$1,300.00 to the weekly collection

St Francis de Sales

1/18 4pm 53 1/19 9:30 am 71 Total 124

St. Francis de Sales UPCOMING COLLECTIONS

Jan 26 Latin America Feb. 2 Capital Improvement Feb. 16 Parish Deficit Feb. 23 Support Around the World

We are grateful to you!

COMMUNITY NEWS & INFO



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.

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

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



CORI Time

To all our volunteers at St. Francis de Sales and St Mary-St Catherine of Siena Parish:

January is the month for our parish to complete CORI forms. <u>All forms</u> <u>must</u> be submitted by Friday, January 31, 2025.

Thank you to all those who have submitted the forms already. Please feel free to call the office with any questions. 617.242.4664



January 26 ~ Third Sunday of Ordinary Time

Re-read today's Gospel. Put yourself in the scene: imagine yourself in the synagogue, perhaps your family is with you. See Jesus as he gets up to read from the scripture. He reads a familiar passage from the prophet Isaiah about the promise of the Messiah. Jesus' mission is clear – to set prisoners free, give sight to the blind, bring good news to the poor. Now think about yourself and the fact that through your baptism, and being a disciple, you too have been given this mission. Consider the ways you are fulfilling this mission and where Christ is inviting you to be more engaged in this work. Ask for His help!



Vomen's

Group

Érase una vez un seguidor de San Francisco de Asís que le pedía: "Francisco, enséñame a predicar". Y San Francisco le llevaba a visitar a los enfermos, a ayudar a los niños, y a dar comida a los pobres. Juntos recorrían las calles de Asís haciendo el bien a todos. El discípulo le preguntaba , ¿pero cuándo me vas a enseñar a predicar? Francisco le contestaba: "hermano, ya estamos predicando".

Predicando con el ejemplo, con la vida. Nuestra manera de vivir es nuestra predicación. No hace falta tener un micrófono o subir al púlpito para predicar. Todos somos predicadores. Nuestra presencia en la iglesia predica nuestra fe, nuestro amor a Jesús y nuestro deseo de vivir como él vivió.

Cuando usted viene a reunirse con los hermanos en la iglesia, está predicando. Cuando usted se queda en la cama el domingo, está predicando. Cuando dice: qué frío hace hoy. Me quedo en casa. Está predicando. Cada vez que voy al dentista me hace siempre la misma pregunta: "¿Con anestesia o sin anestesia?" A veces, le contesto: hoy, sin anestesia.

La predicación en la iglesia debiera ser siempre sin anestesia. Sin anestesia se siente más la aguja y el torno, pero no estás ocho horas con las mandíbulas dormidas. Es más hermoso y práctico un sermón que vemos que un sermón que oímos. Es más eficaz un sermón que camina que un sermón que se grita. ¿Por qué? Porque el ojo es mejor alumno que el oído y el ejemplo es más claro que el consejo.

Ambos son necesarios: el sermón que camina y el sermón que se grita, el sermón que nos entra por los ojos y el que nos entra por los oídos. Y esta es la historia de Jesús de Nazaret.San Lucas, 4, 14-21, nos dice que Jesús volvió a su pueblo, Nazaret, lleno del Espíritu, enseñaba en la sinagoga y aquel día abrió el libro e hizo la lectura del profeta Isaías. Todos tenían los ojos fijos en él. Terminada la lectura dijo: "Hoy se cumplen estas profecías que acaban de escuchar".

Jesús no vino a leer la Biblia. Vino a cumplirla. Jesús no vino a predicar cosas lindas. Vino a hacer cosas lindas. Jesús no vino a enseñarnos el camino del cielo. Vino a hacer con nosotros el camino hacia el cielo. Jesús no vino a predicar el infierno. Vino a abrir las puertas del cielo a todos. Jesús vino a "proclamar el año de la gracia del Señor". Amnistía para todos. Libertad para los cautivos. Buenas noticias para los pobres.

Jesús es fantástico pero no porque fuera el mejor predicador, los había más sabios, es fantástico porque su palabra se cumplía, y se cumple, porque vivía lo que decía. Es fantástico por sus obras. Los charlatanes, los políticos, los predicadores, todos nœotros, hacemos promesas y profecías, contamos visiones, ofrecemos la luna, estamos llenos de buenos deseos y qué pobres son nuestras obras. Nosotros hacemos juramentos de amor eterno y no duran porque confundimos el amor con el placer.

Jesús vino a amarnos a todos y su amor dura porque se cumplió y consumó en la cruz. Jesús comenzó su ministerio diciendo el primer día "hoy se cumple esta escritura" y pudo decir el último día: "Todo está cumplido". Tal vez le quedaban muchas cosas por predicar y muchos cuentos que contar, pero todo estaba hecho y "todo lo hizo bien". De ninguno de nosotros se podrá decir semejante cosa. El reto es no predicar más y mejor sino obrar más y mejor. "Ejemplo les he dado, hagan ustedes lo mismo".

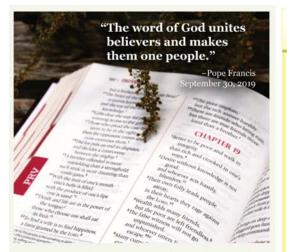


Women of All Ages

Our Women's Group will resume on Wednesday, January 29. We 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, January 29 from 6:30 to 7:30pm. Contact Sr. Nancy Citro, SNDdeN via email: nmcitro@gmail.com and she will send you a link to the meeting.



SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD

In September 2019, Pope Francis issued a letter establishing the Third Sunday of Ordinary Time as Word of God Sunday, stating" Devoting a specific Sunday of the liturgical year to the word of God can enable the Church to experience anew how the risen Lord opens up for us the treasury of his word and enables us to proclaim its unfathomable riches before the world."

"May the Sunday of the Word of God help his people to grow in religious and intimate familiarity with the sacred Scriptures."

-Pope Francis

Feast of St. Blaise - Blessing of the Throats

at all Masses on the

weekend of February 2ND

According to the *Acts*, while Blaise was being taken into custody, a distraught mother, whose only child was choking on a fishbone, threw herself at his feet and implored his intercession. Touched by her grief, he offered up his prayers, and the child was cured. Consequently, Saint Blaise is invoked for protection against injuries and illnesses of the throat.



NEWS FROM THE CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Hi Everyone,

Here are a few updates from this past Sunday's Confirmation 1 & 2 classes:

Confirmation 1 continued their discussion on Prayer, Part 2, and discussed why people pray and the importance of understanding prayer as a conversation with God. Then, they moved on to a review of the Bible, including the books in the Old Testament, the names of the 4 Gospels, and the simple process involved with reading the Bible for a few minutes each day.

Confirmation 2 discussed the Rosary in detail, including its meaning, history, and its mysteries. As a group, they prayed a decade of the Rosary and read ten different passages from the Bible. Each student found a verse or two that resonated with them and wrote their lines on sticky notes to take home. They were encouraged to memorize their selected verses by next class. Their focused and committed work is moving them closer to making the Sacrament of Confirmation on Saturday, May 10, 2025!

Next classes for Confirmation 1 & 2 is Sunday, January 26th at 7pm, following the 6pm mass.

Thank you, Cynthia Markey



<u>ADULT</u> <u>CONFIRMATION CLASSES -</u> <u>PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD</u>

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.



St. Francis de Sales Feast Day January 24. Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Francis de Sales (Aug 21, 1567 to Dec 28, 1622) was trained to be a lawyer and meant to succeed his father as a provincial senator in France. The young man changed his mind after his doctorate

and wanted to join the priesthood; it took some effort to convince his parents. After ordination, he found success in converting Calvinists in Geneva and went on to greater things. He was made a bishop of Geneva at the age of 35. The gentle personality and kindness of Francis de Sales was well known. His words are sweet and encouraging to the faithful: "The person who possesses Christian meekness is affectionate and tender towards everyone: he is disposed to forgive and excuse the frailties of others; the goodness of his heart appears in a sweet affability that influences his words and actions, presents every object to his view in the most charitable and pleasing light." He is known also for his writings on the topic of spiritual direction and spiritual formation, particularly the Introduction to the Devout Life and the Treatise on the Love of God. He is the patron saint of writers and journalists and the deaf.

Second Collection for the Church in Latin America January 25-26

For many in Latin America and Caribbean, rural terrain and a lack of ministers are obstacles to practicing their faith.

Your support to the collection provides lay leadership training, catechesis, priestly and religious formation, as well as other programs to help share our faith with those who long to hear the Good News of Christ. To learn more, please visit www.usccb.org/latin-america.



Cursillo: An Invitation!

Are you looking for an opportunity to grow spiritually and deepen your relationship with Jesus Christ? We invite you to join us for a Cursillo weekend to experience the love of Jesus Christ

on a personal level and bring his love and joy into your daily life. Give yourself an extraordinary gift this year. Where: St. Basil's Salvatorian Center, Methuen. For more

information, contact

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Attend our upcoming career fair and apply to work with us.

January 31st, 2025 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Knights of Columbus Hall 545 Medford Street Charlestown, MA 02129

Please note, no physical mail is associated with this notification.



SAINT COLUMBKILLE

2025

SCHOOLS







Catholic Schools Week It's Catholic Schools Week! We're grateful for all of our wonderful teachers and students who contribute so much to the life of our parish.

WINTER 2025 ALERT

Dear Friends, in the event of inclement weather that necessitates the closing of the church, we will post the closing on Channels 5-WCVB, 7-WHDH & 56-WLVI. Stay warm and safe!

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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