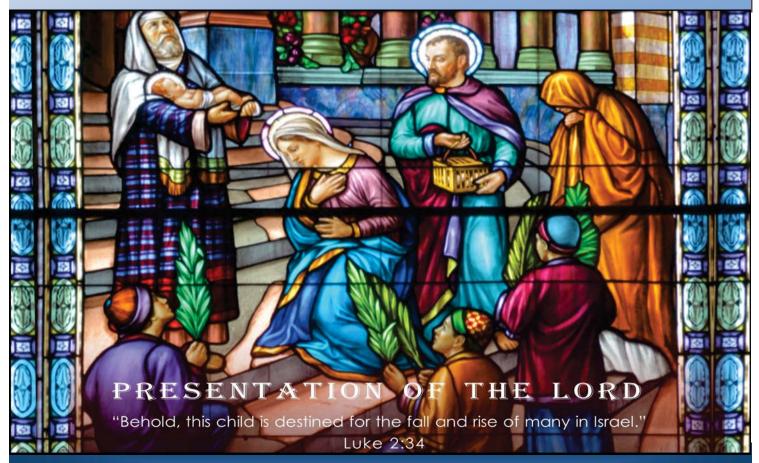
CHARLESTOWN CATHOLIC COLLABORATIVE

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 February 2, 2025



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. Msgr. Felix Ojimba

Email info@charlestowncatholic.org

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EYES	GLORY	JERUSALEM
JESUS	JOSEPH	LAW
LIGHT	LORD	MARY
MASTER	MOSES	PEACE
PEOPLE	PIGEONS	PRESENT
SALVATION	SERVANT	SIMEON

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.

This weekend's Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

The birth of Christ was revealed by three kinds of witnesses in three different ways ~ first, by the shepherds, after the angel's announcement; second, by the Magi, who were guided by a star; third, by Simeon and Anna, who were inspired by the Holy Spirit.

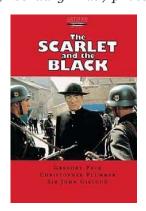
Today's Gospel describes the Presentation of the Baby Jesus in the Temple. It was intended to ritually redeem Jesus who was the first born in the family and where Mary herself will have to be ritually purified. Mary and Joseph was a typical pious Jewish couple, who went to the Temple in obedience to do all that was required and expected of them by the Law.

The Feast of the Presentation of Jesus is a combined feast, commemorating the Jewish practice of the purification of the mother after childbirth and the presentation of the child in the Temple. It is known as the Feast of the Purification of Mary (by the offering two pigeons in the Temple), the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (by prayers and a sacrifice offered in the Temple to redeem or buy the firstborn male child back from the Lord), the Feast of Candlemas (because of its ancient rite of blessing of the candles to be used in the church for the next year — a practice dating from the middle of the fifth century) and the Feast of Encounter (because the New Testament, represented by the Baby Jesus, encountered the Old Testament, represented by Simeon and Anna).

Originally, there was no connection between today's festival and the blessing of candles. In the ancient East, this celebration occurred on Feb. 14, forty days after Epiphany. On Feb. 15, pagans celebrated the festival of Lupercalia, a great "light" festival. Perhaps this is an instance of the Church's "baptizing" a pagan custom. At the principal Mass, the celebrant blesses candles, and people take part in a candlelight procession. This should remind us that Jesus is our High Priest and the Light of the World.

Vatican Radio

Coming Friday, February 21 at 7 pm to 46 Winthrop...



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!

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, great deal of beauty and history- not just for our Town, but our please consider contacting them for more information.

Thank you for your most generous support of our Parishes.

A word from your Pastor

My dear friends in Christ:

pastorate at St. Francis de Sales and St. Mary-St. Catherine par-more-will be reflected in the collaborative name we use. Though ishes, 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 born saint. I find this to be a helpful and creative process. I will 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

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 On Nov. 24, 2023, something new started here. I began my churches will retain their names. What we do together-more and 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 Americanpresent 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 place. For example, each parish maintains, by Church tenets, its own finances. If it is God's will that we become one, 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 about our work.

> > Fr. John



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

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.

Winter Walk to End Homelessness By Tom MacDonald

The parish food pantry, Harvest on Vine, is sponsoring a Winter Walk team. The walk takes place on Sunday 2/9 at 8:30 AM on the Boston Common at the corner of Charles and Beacon. Our team is called Harvest on Vine Charlestown. Go to winterwalk.org to register.

According the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the homeless rate in Greater Boston is the second highest in the nation as compared to other major metropolitan areas. The report also stated that we have excellent services. Only 6 percent of the region's homeless population is unsheltered, as compared to 40 percent nationally; 70 percent of Greater Boston's homeless are in families compared to only 28 percent nationwide.

Charlestown Catholic Collaborative is fully committed to serving the marginalized among us, honoring the Catholic tradition of the preferential option for the poor. The St. Vincent De Paul Society provides furniture and bedding to families who moved out of homeless shelters to subsidized housing in the neighborhood. Harvest on Vine distributes food (we now have 712 families on our database). The Ignatian Spirituality Project offers fellowship and spiritual direction to the homeless and recently homeless.

Please support us in this worthy cause.

February 2 Presentation of the Lord

February 2 World Dy for Consecrated life

February 2 Groundhog Day

February 9 World Marriage Day

February 9 Super Bowl

February 11 Our Lady of Lourdes

February 12 Lincoln's Birthday

February 14 Valentines Day

February 17 President's Day-office closed

February 22 Chair of St Peter



February is dedicated to the Holy Family Prayer to the

Prayer to the Holy Family

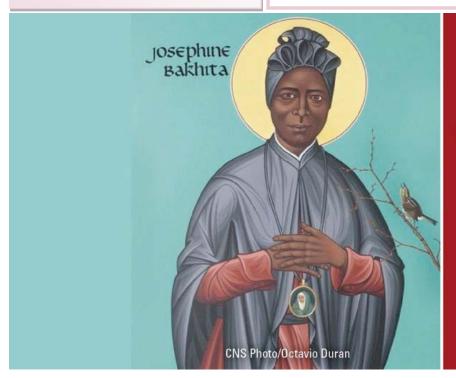
Dear Lord, Please bless our family. Be so kind as to give us the unity, peace, and mutual love that You found in Your own family in the little town of NazaRELIGIOUS EDUCATION SCHEDULE—FEBRUARY

2/11/2025 @ 4 PM K-4

2/25/2025 @ 4 PM K-3

Confirmation I & II 2/9/2025 Mass - 6 PM Class - 7 PM

Youth Group 2/2/2025 Class



O ST. BAKHITA, ASSIST ALL THOSE WHO ARE TRAPPED IN A STATE OF SLAVERY;

INTERCEDE WITH GOD ON THEIR BEHALF SO THAT THEY WILL BE RELEASED FROM THEIR CHAINS OF CAPTIVITY.

THOSE WHOM MAN ENSLAVES, LET GOD SET FREE.



St. Mary-St. Catherine of Siena Mass Intentions

St. Francis de Sales Mass Intentions

Saturday, February 1

4 pm

Sunday, February 2

8 am

11 am + David Latta

6 pm

Monday, February 3

8 am

Tuesday, February 4

8 am

Wednesday, February 5

8 am

Thursday, February 6

8 am

Friday, February 7

8 am

Saturday, February 8

4 pm + Jake Cadey

Sunday, February 9

8 am

11 am

6 pm

Saturday, February 1

4 pm Parishioner Intentions

Sunday, February 2

9:30 am



Saturday, February 8

4 pm Parishioner Intentions

Sunday, February 9

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 26
Parishioners gave
\$2,605.65
to the weekly collection
And \$782
To the Latin America Collection



Requiescat in Pace

Irene "Sally" Livingston-Denn St Francis de Sales
Weekend of January 26
Parishioners gave \$1,896.00
to the weekly collection
And \$328
To the Latin America Collection

St Mary-St Catherine of Siena

1/18 4 pm 73 1/19 8 am 59 11 am 108 6 pm 64 Total 304

Saint Francis de Sales Sanctuary Lamp is lit for

Sally Moran

St Francis de Sales

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

St. Mary - St Catherine of Siena UPCOMING COLLECTIONS

Feb. 2 Fuel Feb. 9 Monthly

Feb. 23 Support Around the World



Saint Mary Church Sanctuary Lamp is lit for

Rose Woods

St. Francis de Sales
UPCOMING COLLECTIONS

Feb. 2 Capital Improvement

Feb. 16 Parish Deficit

Feb. 23 Support Around the World

COMMUNITY NEWS & INFO

Feast of St. Blaise Blessing of the Throats at all Masses this weekend

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.



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.

For weekday Masses, if Boston Schools have been called off, there will be no 8 am Mass. Stay warm and safe!

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!



HUNGRY SUNDAY APPEAL NEXT 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. Next 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.

February 2 ~ Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

The readings for this feast remind us that from earliest times, the people of God were anticipating the coming of a savior. Both Simeon and Anna, had spent their lives in prayer and quiet watchfulness until God should come. God had promised Simeon through the Holy Spirit that his life would not end before he had seen God's own Anointed King. Anna never ceased to hope because day by day she kept her contact with God, her source of strength. The example of these two witnesses prompts us to reflect on hope and what it is that we hope for. Pope Franics has invited us during this Jubilee Year of Hope to rediscover hope in our prayer and worship and then, to bring hope and sow hope into all that our daily lives hold, because "hope does not disappoint."



Dios, a través de estas lecturas, DESEA ILUMINAR NUESTRA CONCIENCIA. Para Dios el hecho que TODOS PIENSEN IGUAL sobre un tema determinado o que el sentir común sea compartido por todos en asuntos serios o no tan serios, ES ALGO QUE A ÉL NO LE CONDICIONA. En cambio a nosotros sí nos condiciona, jy mucho! Puede surgir un problema en el pueblo, y siempre habrá personas interesadas que intenten 'llevar el agua a su molino'; otras simplemente por amistad o por temor les darán la razón; otras personas sencillamente guardarán silencio; y muy pocas actuarán como en conciencia consideren que deben de actuar. Esto sucedió en tiempos de Jesús y sigue siendo igual de actual ahora mismo. Me pueden preguntar y ahora ¿por qué nos dice esto?¿qué relación estas afirmaciones con la Palabra de Dios? Ahora lo intentaré iluminar.

Hoy nos hemos leído una página triste donde Jesús es rechazado en su pueblo, en Nazaret. Sus vecinos le dicen a la cara: «¿No es este el hijo de José?», que en ese contexto es tanto como decirle: «A éste le conocemos de sobra, ahora nos viene dando lecciones a nosotros, no te creemos, dedícate a la carpintería y déjanos de dar esas lecciones sobre la Ley de Dios». Y Jesús, con el ánimo de que se crean en su persona, les deja bien en claro que están cerrados al anuncio del Reino de Dios, que corazones están bien precintados con candados. Y es más, JESÚS LES INTERPELA COMENTÁNDOLES QUE EL HECHO DE QUE TODOS PIENSEN IGUAL NO SIGNIFICA QUE LA RESPONSABILIDAD PERSONAL SE DILUYA O DISMINUYA. Les voy a poner un ejemplo: Supongan ustedes que la responsabilidad fuese una gran tarta de chocolate y nata redonda y cada cual se come una porción de mencionada tarta, como si esa porción fuese el tanto por cierto de responsabilidad que uno debe de asumir. De tal modo que si son muchos los comensales de esa tarta, poca responsabilidad tocaría a cada uno. Pues hermanos, ES JUSTAMENTE TODO LO CONTRARIO. Cada cual es responsable al cien por cien, totalmente, de sus decisiones. Si todos piensan igual y todos actúan igual, cada uno es responsable de toda la tarta de responsabilidad con sus consecuencias ya sean positivas o negativas.

Por eso mismo Jesús alaba públicamente a esa viuda de Sarepta de la región de Sidón (1 Re 17, 7-15) y a Naamán el Sirio. Gran hambre había en el país ocasionada por la sequía en tiempos de esa viuda de Sarepta. Ella era una mujer que sufría la más absoluta pobreza, y encima tenía a su cargo un niño. La desgracia se había cebado en esa mujer. Elías, enviado por Dios, va a casa de esta mujer y la pide agua y pan. Esta pobre viuda, que carecía de todo, cumple con un deber sagrado para todo israelita: dar hospitalidad, acoger en su casa a los huéspedes. De este modo se priva de lo suyo y de su hijo para dárselo a ese huésped. Muchos vecinos de ese pueblo, con toda seguridad estarían, a poco, mucho mejor económicamente hablando que esta señora. Ella podía haber hecho como todos diciendo a Elias...: «¡Mira, vete, no te puedo hospedar, porque apenas tengo para mí como para encima dárselo a uno que viene de fuera!», y haberse quedado 'tan fresca', ya que todos negaban la hospitalidad al huésped y era algo que era normal, justificado por la penuria y escasez que se padecía en todas las casas. Dense cuenta cómo Jesucristo la alaba públicamente porque dio público testimonio de su fe en Dios amando como Dios la ama. Y le amó compartiendo su poco pan con al hambriento. La señal del cristiano no es el éxito, sino la persecución. Todo por Cristo, así daremos testimonio de Él. Así sea.



Don't forget the poor

Because of your help, St. Vincent de Paul Society continues to help a number of individuals and families in Charlestown. We thank you for your continued generosity and hope you will continue to keep us in mind so that we can continue to assist those in need. Thank you.

NEWS FROM THE CONFIRMATION CLASS

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!

Thank you, Cynthia Markey



An Invitation to 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.

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 Nancy Higgins: higginsneh@aol.com

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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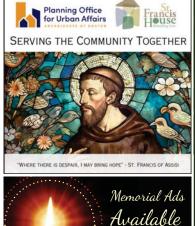
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S W H

"Jesus Wept." John 11:35





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