

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

March 2, 2025

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD

SING PRAISES TO HIS NAME

PSALM 92

© Pilot Bulletins

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 and 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

Web-site

Stfrancischarlestown.org
Stmarystcatherine.org



LENT

Lent is upon us! In just a few days, we will embark on a 40-day journey of conversion to the cross. Have you made your Lenten resolutions yet? Check out the USCCB website for reflection materials, a calendar, and all the facts you need to know about Lent. www.usccb.org/lent

FASTING ON ASH WEDNESDAY AND IN LENT

*Abstinence from meat is to be observed by all Catholics fourteen (14) years of age and older on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all the Fridays of Lent.
Fasting is to be observed by all Catholics who are eighteen (18) years of age but not yet fifty-nine (59) years of age on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.*

Those who are bound to fast may take only one full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted if necessary to maintain strength according to one's needs, but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted. Catholics should not lightly excuse themselves from these prescribed Lenten penitential practices.

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.

March 2 ~ Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today's Gospel offers much to ponder as we move toward the start of Lent. First Jesus says, "Remove the wooden beam from your eye first, then you will see clearly to remove the splinter in your brother's [sister's] eye." Then he says, "A good tree does not bear rotten fruit, nor does a rotten tree bear good fruit. For every tree is known by its own fruit." Both sayings remind us of our need to reflect on our personal blind spots, behaviors or attitudes that demean others rather than build up others. If we take time to thoughtfully consider Jesus' teaching in this gospel, we may realize our need for God's healing in the Sacrament of Penance, especially before Lent starts. With God's grace and our effort to remove the "wooden beam in our own eye" will lead to our bearing "good fruit" during our Lenten journey!



Octavo Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario Fin

"Porque cada árbol es conocido por su propio fruto." Jesús declara este principio en la lectura del Evangelio de hoy para ilustrar un principio de corresponsabilidad paralelo en nuestra vida espiritual. Al igual que un árbol bueno da buenos frutos y un árbol malo da malos frutos, así también el buen corresponsable produce el bien y una mala persona el mal. Esto no es casualidad. Nuestras palabras y acciones son expresiones externas de lo que yace en nuestros corazones. Es de la "reserva de bondad de su corazón" que la buena persona saca lo bueno, y es de la "reserva del mal en su corazón" que la mala persona produce el mal. Una reflexión para esta semana: ¿Cómo reflejan con precisión nuestras palabras y acciones lo que yace en lo profundo de nuestro corazón?

ICSC@catholicstewardship.org (800) 352-3452 International Catholic Stewardship Council www.catholicstewardship.co

Jubilee Year 2025: Pilgrims of Hope

What is an indulgence?

An indulgence remits the temporal punishment of sin already forgiven. Sorrow for sin can lead to repentance and forgiveness, but the disruption of God's order and the effect of the sin on others remains. For the sake of justice, there must be a mitigation of the evil effects of the sin; an attempt to "make up" for the evil caused.

Temporal punishment is a consequence of the sin which helps to purify our souls and restore, as possible, God's order. An indulgence, indulges us. It provides for our spiritual purification without pain or difficulty because the merits of Christ's death and those of the saints are applied on our behalf. You can learn more at bit.ly/JubileeOfHope.

Año jubilar 2025: Peregrinos de esperanza

¿Qué es una indulgencia?

Una indulgencia remite el castigo temporal del pecado ya perdonado. El dolor por el pecado puede conducir al arrepentimiento y al perdón, pero la alteración del orden de Dios y el efecto del pecado sobre los demás permanecen. Para el bien de la justicia, debe haber una mitigación de los efectos malignos del pecado; un intento de "compensar" el mal causado. El castigo temporal es una consecuencia del pecado que ayuda a purificar nuestras almas y a restaurar, en la medida de lo posible, el orden de Dios. Una indulgencia, nos consiente. Proporciona purificación sin dolor ni dificultad porque los méritos de la muerte de Cristo y los de los santos se aplican en nuestro nombre. Puede obtener más información en bit.ly/JubileeOfHope.

24 Hours for the Lord

(3/28 - 3/29)

March 28-29, 2025

[The Jubilee Pilgrimage Sites](#) in the Archdiocese of Boston will be hosting 24 Hours for the Lord (24 hours of Adoration) on March 28th to 29th. Each site will have opportunities for silent prayer before our Lord in the Eucharist, as well as other ways of praying. Strengthen your hope in Jesus by sitting with him in prayer. He awaits you!

View the schedule for each pilgrimage site <https://bostoncatholic.org/24-hours-for-the-lord>

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

The 2025 Catholic Appeal Moving Forward in Faith... Together

One of the most meaningful ways that we deepen the impact of our Archdiocese's schools, parishes, and ministries is by supporting the Catholic Appeal. Your partnership and participation carry Christ's love into our communities and spread hope. Many of you may have received a letter from Archbishop Richard Henning requesting your support of the 2025 Catholic Appeal.

We hope that you will respond to his invitation with a generous gift, knowing that each contribution makes a difference. Your early support will help launch our parishes' campaigns in a positive way.

The Appeal is a primary means by which we enfold our brothers and sisters into Christ's circle of care. On behalf of Archbishop Henning and all who benefit from your generosity, Thank you.

To make an on-line donation or to learn more about the impact your donation will have, go to bostoncatholicappeal.org.

K- 4 Faith Formation update

It's hard to believe, but we're moving quickly to spring.

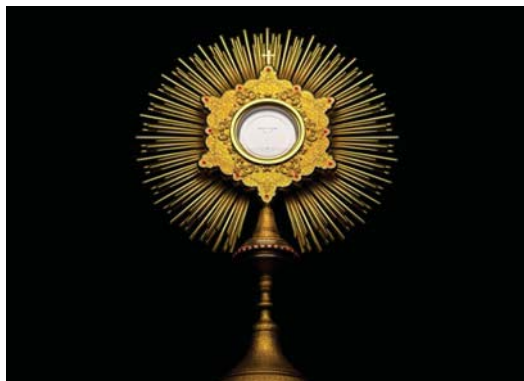
These are the remaining classes on our schedule:

March 11 & 25, April 8 & 29.

- We'll have First Reconciliation on **Saturday, March 8 at 10 am at St. Mary's and at 1 pm at St. Francis.**
- First Communion Masses will be celebrated on **Saturday, May 3 at 10 am at St. Mary's and Sunday, May 4 at 9:30 am at St. Francis.**

We will announce rehearsals for these celebrations.

Join us for an hour of prayer



Join us for a **Lenten Holy Hour** on Mondays starting **March 10 at 5 pm** at St. Mary's, followed on March 17th at St. Francis.

Coming Soon!



We're starting Scouts in our Collaborative!

We'll begin with a Cub Scout Pack,

for boys and girls, grades K-4.

An informational meeting for parents will be held on

Monday, March 3 at 5 pm at 46 Winthrop.

Any questions? See Fr. John!



Ash Wednesday is March 5

8 am Mass @ St. Mary's 12 pm Service @ St. Francis
3 pm Service @ St. Mary's 6 pm Mass @ St. Francis

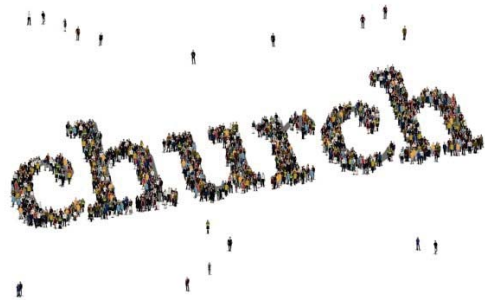
*Over the next few weeks, find the palms
and we'll transform them into the ashes we will mark ourselves
with to begin our Lenten journey.*



Oh Sacred Head, surrounded...

Stations of the Cross
with Exposition and Benediction
will be prayed on Fridays during Lent
beginning **March 7 at 5:30 pm** at St. Francis.
On March 14, it will be at St. Mary's Church.

Parish Town Meetings



Fr. John will be hosting Town Meetings following the weekend Masses of **March 8-9 at St. Francis**

and March 15-16 at St. Mary's Church.

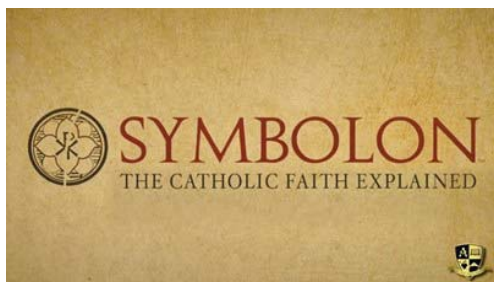
Stay and learn about Collaboration-
what we've accomplished and what lies ahead-
as we grow closer as a family!

El Retiro de Cuaresma



El retiro de Cuaresma del Ministerio Hispano es el domingo 9 de marzo de 2 a 6 p.m. en la Capilla de Santa Catherine. El padre Gabino Mecías será el encargado de dirigir el retiro. Para más información, véase Blanca Paz

We will continue Symbolon for Lent!



Join us **Monday evening, March 10 at 7 pm** at St. Catherine's Chapel. For info, see Fr. John.

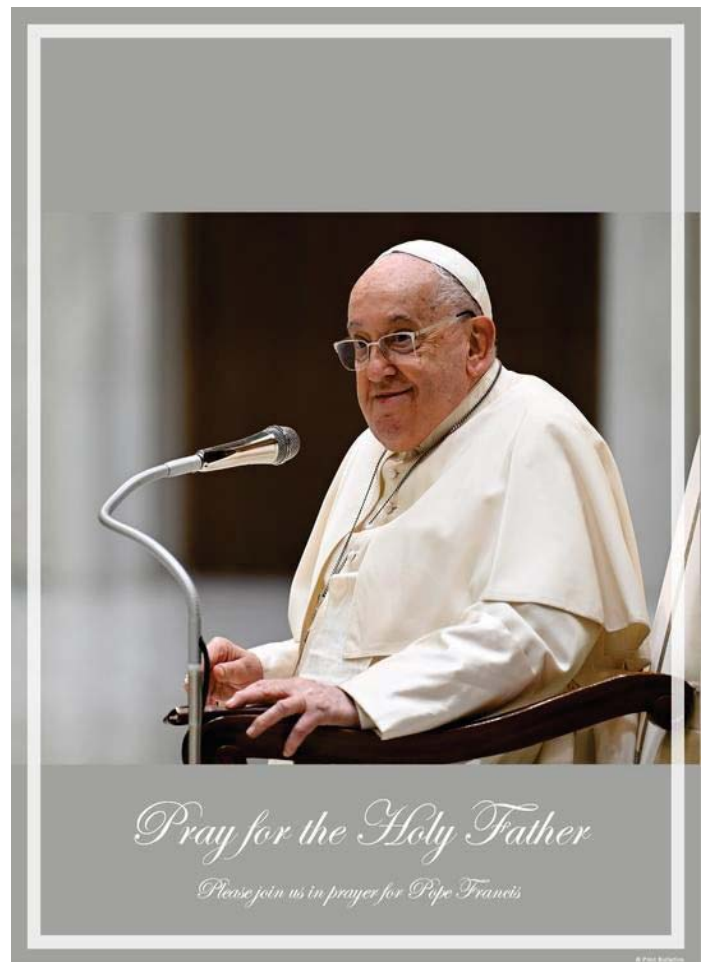


Coming March 25-27 for our Collaborative Lenten Mission: *The Three R's of Lent*

Monday, March 25 at 6:30 pm @ St. Francis
Renewal with Fr. Paul Coughlin
Sacrament of Anointing

Tuesday, March 26 at 6:30 pm @ St. Mary's
Reconciliation with Fr. Mark Riley
Sacrament of Reconciliation

Wednesday, March 27 at 6:30 pm @ St. Francis
Resurrection with Deacon Joe Nickley
Celebration of Mass



Pray for the Holy Father

Please join us in prayer for Pope Francis.

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

Saturday, March 1
4 pm + Rita & Warren F. Butler & Warren G. Butler
Sunday, March 2
8 am
11 am
6 pm + Dolly Hudson, Joe Fitz, Sean Fitz & Charles Fitz
Monday, March 3
8 am
Tuesday, March 4
8 am
Wednesday, March 5 Ash Wednesday
8 am Mass
3 pm Service
Thursday, March 6
8 am
Friday, March 7
8 am
Saturday, March 8
9 am
4 pm + James P. Collins & deceased members of Collins family
Sunday, March 9
8 am
11 am + Charles Farmer, Sarah Farmer-Williams, Cissy Delaney
6 pm

*St. Francis de Sales
Mass Intentions*

Saturday, March 1
4 pm + Joseph "Moe" Mahoney
Sunday, March 2
9:30 am + Michael Elwell
March 5—Ash Wednesday
12 pm Service
6 pm Mass
Saturday, March 8
4 pm + Br. Francis Gillen & Cmd Robert L. Gillen
Sunday, March 9
9:30 am



CHARLESTOWN CATHOLIC

Mass Intentions—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 de Sales, St Mary's 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. John.

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 Godparents 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 Saturdays before the 4 pm Mass.

Weddings— All couples; Please access the 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

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.

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 volunteering for a ministry...

Contact us at the Parish office at 617.242.4664
or email: info@charlestowncatholic.org

St Mary St Catherine
Weekend of February 23th
Parishioners gave
\$3,162.73
to the weekly collection
And \$937.00 for the
Collection support around the world



*Requiescant in
Pace*
Steven L. Shea
&
Kathleen L. Puliafico

St Francis de Sales
Weekend of February 23th
Parishioners gave
\$1,533.00
to the weekly collection
And \$333.00
To last week's Capital Improvement
collection

St Mary—St Catherine of Siena
2/22
4 pm 53
2/23
8 am 65
11 am 137
6 pm 57
Total 312



Saint Francis de Sales
Church
Sanctuary Lamp
is lit for

St Francis de Sales
2/22
4pm 58
2/23
9:30 am 46
Total 104

Florence & Eugene
Connors

St. Francis de Sales
UPCOMING COLLECTIONS

St. Mary - St Catherine of Siena
UPCOMING COLLECTIONS

Mar 9, Fuel Collection
Mar 16, Monthly Collection
Apr 13 Parish Easter

*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!*

Mar. 9. Capital Improvement
Apr 6, Capital Improvement



We are grateful to you!

COMMUNITY NEWS & INFO

FOR OUR PARISHES MARCH DATES

March 2—Youth Group
March 2—Confirmation 1 & 2
March 3—Cub Scouts
March 4—Shrove Tuesday
March 5—Ash Wednesday
March 7—Stations, St Francis
March 8/9—Town Hall, St Francis
March 8—First Reconciliation
March 9—**Daylight Savings Time**
March 9— Ministerio Hispano
March 9—Confirmation 1 & 2
March 10—Holy Hour, St Mary
March 10—Symbolon

March 11—K-4 Faith Formation
March 14—Stations, St Mary
March 15/16—Town Hall, St Mary
March 17—Holy Hour, St Francis
March 25—K-4 Faith Formation
March 25—Fr. Coughlin, St Francis
March 26—Fr. Riley, St Mary
March 27—Deacon Nickley, St Francis

On Tuesdays during Lent, you are invited to participate in a Lenten group after the 8 am Mass in St Catherine Siena Chapel. The group is led by Kathy Devaney who will lead the group in discussion and meditation on Sunday Gospel. Any questions, email Kathy at devaney4076@comcast.net

Of Note—March Feasts

March 7—World Day of Prayer
March 17—St. Patrick
March 19—St Joseph, spouse of Mary
March 25—Annunciation of the Lord
March 30—Laetare Sunday

Please stay after the
Masses at St. Francis on
March 8-9 and
St. Mary- St. Catherine
March 15-16 for a Town
Meeting with Fr. John to
discuss Collaboration.
Please bring your
questions and thoughts!
~ Fr. John Sheridan

CARMELITE DAY OF RECOLLECTION

Boston



FOR YOUNG ADULT WOMEN

Saturday, March 22, 2025

9am to 3pm

To register and for more information:

www.tinyurl.com/CDOR25-Women

These events are free, but donations are accepted.
Registration is required, as space is limited.

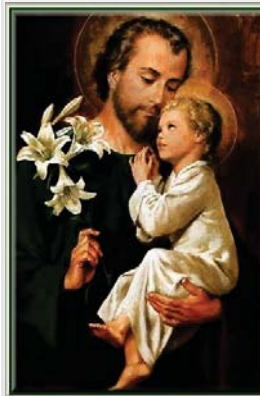
FOR YOUNG ADULT MEN

Saturday, April 12, 2025

1pm to 7pm

To register and for more information:

www.tinyurl.com/CDOR25-Men



The month of March is dedicated to St. Joseph. We don't know much about him except what is mentioned in the Gospels. Joseph was the husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the foster-father of Jesus. Holy Scripture proclaims him as a "just man," Pope Leo XIII in his encyclical *Quamquam Pluries* (*On the Devotion to St. Joseph*) in 1889 explains why we place so much trust in this saint:

"Thus in giving Joseph the Blessed Virgin as spouse, God appointed him to be not only her life's companion, the witness of her maidenhood, the protector of her honor, but also, by virtue of the conjugal tie, a participator in her sublime dignity. And Joseph shines among all mankind by the most august dignity, since by divine will, he was the guardian of the Son of God and reputed as His father among men. Hence it came about that the Word of God was humbly subject to Joseph, that He obeyed him, and that He rendered to him all those offices that children are bound to render to their parents."



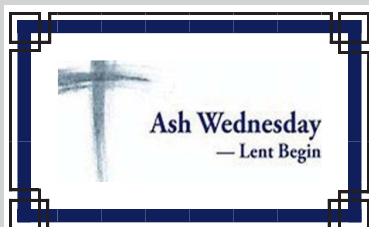
Shrove Tuesday - Fat Tuesday: March 4

Shrove Tuesday, is the day immediately preceding Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent in Western Christian churches. It is also known as Fat Tuesday. Traditionally, Catholics have embraced Fat Tuesday as a way to get rid of all the fats and desserts in the house in preparation for Lent.

The deeper meaning for Fat Tuesday actually comes from its traditional name, Shrove Tuesday. The word "shrove" means to give absolution—to be forgiven! Shrove Tuesday is an invitation to reflect on your life, seek forgiveness and peace, and get ready for 40 days of spiritual renewal during Lent.

Pancakes are the traditional choice in a number of European countries; the day is known as Pancake Day or Pancake Tuesday in Ireland. In Poland, Paczki (deep fried doughnuts) are traditional.

Mardi Gras—which means "Fat Tuesday" in French is a well known celebration that takes place in New Orleans, where parades, parties, and feasting lasts anywhere from one day to several weeks. King Cake is the special food for the day,



WHY ASHES

For centuries, Catholic Christians have marked the beginning of the season of Lent by receiving ashes on their foreheads on Ash Wednesday. This tradition has its roots in the Old Testament, where wearing ashes was a common sign of repentance for sins, and a sign of one's humility before God. Since Lent is a season of penitential renewal through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, it's appropriate that this ancient sign marks the beginning of the season.

The ashes themselves are usually made by burning the palm fronds from the previous year's Palm Sunday. This symbolically connects the beginning of Lent with its end, connecting our change of heart with Christ's passion, death, and resurrection.

Ashes are usually distributed as part of the Mass on Ash Wednesday, often after the homily. As people approach the priest or other minister, he presses the ashes to their foreheads, and speaks one of two phrases: "remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return", or "Repent and believe in the Gospel".

Excerpt from "Why Ashes" by Fr. Larry Rice - Catholic Current Copyright © 2019, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. All rights reserved.

The Three Pillars of Lent

PRAYER

Guide: Praying with Scripture

Enter His Gaze

Ask for Grace to be open

Read the Scripture a few times

Meditate on what bubbles up

Pray (or talk to the Lord) about your meditation

Contemplation - Be still and rest in His presence

Conclude with the Lord's prayer

FASTING

"Fasting gives birth to prophets and strengthens the powerful; fasting makes lawgivers wise. Fasting is a good safeguard for the soul, a steadfast companion for the body, a weapon for the valiant, and a gymnasium for athletes. Fasting repels temptations, anoints unto piety; it is the comrade of watchfulness and the artificer of chastity. In war it fights bravely, in peace it teaches stillness."

St. Basil the Great

ALMSGIVING

"Let us also love our neighbors as ourselves. Let us have charity and humility. Let us give alms because these cleanse our souls from the stains of sin. Men lose all the material things they leave behind them in this world, but they carry with them the reward of their charity and the alms they give. For these they will receive from the Lord the reward and recompense they deserve."

St. Francis of Assisi



ALMSGIVING for Lent

Please consider these Parish

Ministries:

Harvest on Vine Food Pantry

St. Vincent de Paul

And/or

the CRS Rice bowls

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 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.

GET INVOLVED

Parish Councils

Finance Council

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



LOCATED AT 20 WINTHROP STREET IN THE LOWER LEVEL OF SAINT MARY'S CHURCH

Good Shepherd School is a diverse community of children and families that represents the entirety of Charlestown.

To schedule a tour or for more information about the school, please contact

617-242-8800 or

director@gsscharlestown.org. for more information on schedules and tuition fees



Project Rachel Post-Abortion Healing Retreats

Are you – or someone you know – seeking peace after an abortion? The Project Rachel ministry of the Archdiocese of Boston extends a special invitation to women experiencing regret from a past abortion to attend a *Come to the Waters of Healing* one-day retreat.

Spring dates are Saturdays, Mar. 15 & May 10.

Locations are confidential.

For more info on the retreats or other services, call 508.651.3100

or help@projectrachelboston.com.

Fr. John is a Project Rachel priest.



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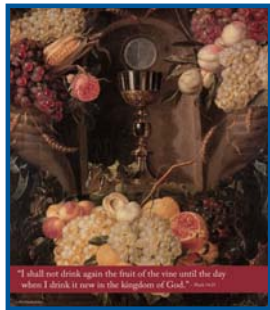
Enjoy the full color bulletin that will change weekly and may feature images to reflect the Gospel of the week or a meaningful Parish event.

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