

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 9, 2025



Sunday
of Lent

*"It is written:
You shall worship
the Lord, your God,
and him alone
shall you serve."*

Luke 4:8



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

Here's a quick update from Sunday's Youth Group.

After receiving positive feedback and grateful acknowledgement on their Valentine's Day card-making service project for young patients recovering at Spaulding Rehab in Charlestown, the group turned its focus to Lent. The group discussed how Lent represents a period of prayer, fasting and giving. They had a great discussion about what it means to give something up to make room for God. They also learned about the 40 days of Lent and what Jesus did during those 40 days. Everyone shared ideas and suggestions about things that they can "take up" or "give up" for Lent.

We also watched a Lent cartoon, an impressive video that several of the students enjoyed so much that they asked us to share it with all of you. It's called Jesus in the Desert. (Picture: "40" by Si Smith; Song: "How He Loves" by John Mark McMillian) Here's the link to that video: <https://youtu.be/O5bfxGNMY9c>

Closer to the end of class, the group's competitive spirit came through when they were divided into 7 teams and played 4 Lent-related word jumbles, crosswords, and other fun puzzles. Although all 7 teams were winners, 3 teams placed in the top tier for accuracy and speed. I want to thank our 2 student volunteers from the Confirmation 2 class, Pilar and Lina, who helped co-lead the class with Kerry and Madison, while also serving as judges for the games.

Kudos to Mark Savage and Namrita Kapur for bringing water and pizza to Sunday's class.

If you'd like to volunteer for pizza for the April class, please use this link to sign up or feel free to email me directly. Thank you in advance to Tracey Lawler for volunteering to bring water to the April class.

The next (and last class) for Youth Group is Sunday, April 6th at 7pm, following the 6pm mass.

With many thanks and much gratitude,

Cynthia Markey

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.

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.

CHARLESTOWN BATH TOWEL DRIVE

**SPONSORED BY: The Charlestown Catholic Collaborative's
Harvest on Vine Food Pantry, the St Vincent de Paul Society,
as well as, the Charlestown Community Closet.**



*Dear Friends and Neighbors,
Please consider donating **NEW** medium weight BATH TOWELS (one, two, or as many as you are able) to those who might find purchasing them a bit too challenging right now. These towels will be distributed on **April 12th** at the **Harvest on Vine food pantry** distribution and will be enjoyed by our Charlestown neighbors in need.*

Drop off Dates: March 10th – April 6th

Drop off times: When open, varies by location

Drop off Locations:

St Mary Church- before weekend masses

St. Francis de Sales Church- before weekend masses

St. Mary's Parish Center- 46 Winthrop Street, Weekdays 9-5PM

St. John's Church- 32 Devens St-

Tuesdays 11-5 and Thursdays 5:30-7:30PM

Harvest on Vine Food Pantry- 49 Vine Street- when open

GOAL- 1,000 TOWELS!

*Please leave your new BATH TOWELS in bags to protect their cleanliness. **THANK YOU!***

CONFIRMATION UPDATE

Here are a couple of updates from Sunday's Confirmation 1 & 2 classes.

Confirmation 1 began a two-part discussion on the Church, including a review of the first Christians and the early Church. The class also discussed the 4 distinct characteristics of the Catholic Church (One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic) and discovered the meaning of each quality and why these 4 qualities matter. More discussion on the Church and the topic of "Why Be Catholic" at the next class on March 16th.

Confirmation 2 students continued their discussion on the Holy Spirit (Part 2) and explored the question What Does the Holy Spirit Do for Me? They had a good conversation about what makes Catholicism unique. Father John joined the class and helped lead the discussion on the 4 marks of the Church. Class ended with a quiet reflection on the Gospel and how it can inspire us during Lent. Saint Reports have been completed and Letters of Intent are in the process of being finalized and submitted by the next class on Sunday, March 16th. Sponsor names are also due by the next class. Sponsor forms were handed out at Sunday's class and a copy of the form is attached to this email. The students continue to make great progress as they move closer to achieving the Sacrament of Confirmation on Saturday, May 10th.

Next classes for Confirmation 1 & 2 is Sunday, March 16th at 7pm, following the 6pm mass.

With many thanks,
Cynthia Markey

Harvest on Vine

On the March Calendar

Saturday, March 8th, 10:00 am -
Distribution

Monday, March 17th, 6:00 pm -
Boyce Community Kitchen Cooking
Class

Sponsored by the DiDomenico Family
Sal and Trisha, and sons Matthew and
Sal

Tuesday, March 25th 5:00 pm -
Distribution (note time change)

**DON'T FORGET THE POOR PLEASE
REMEMBER THE POOR BOXES AT THE
BACK OF THE CHURCH**



Scouting is coming back to Charlestown!

On Monday evening, parents, girls and boys flocked to 46 Winthrop to watch a great presentation on Scouting by Pack and Troop 617 in Quincy. They took part in activities and asked questions as Scouting prepares to roar back to Charlestown. There will be a parents' meeting on **Tuesday, March 18 at 5 pm at 46 Winthrop.**

Look up. Look ahead. Be prepared. Take the lead.



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.

First Reconciliation & Communion

Congratulations to the girls and boys who celebrated their First Reconciliation at both churches on Saturday. Thanks in a special way to Susan and Brittany who prepared them so well!

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 **Lenten Holy Hours** on Mondays starting **March 10 at 5 pm** at St. Mary's, followed on **March 17th** at St. Francis.



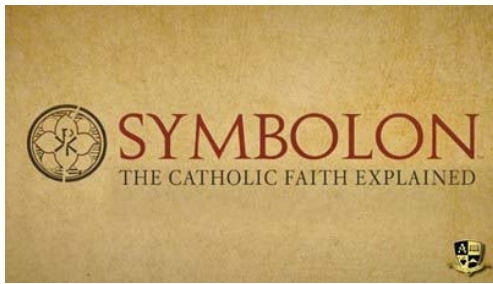
Stations of the Cross will be prayed on **Fridays at 5:30 pm** during Lent. On **March 14**, it will be at St. Mary's

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.

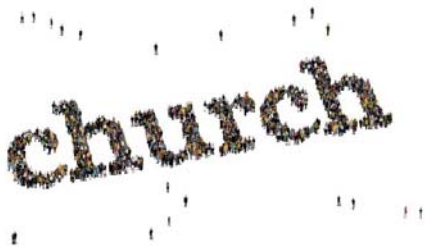
We hope that you will respond to his invitation with a generous gift, knowing that each contribution makes a difference. Your early support will help launch our parishes' campaigns in a positive way.

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.

Parish Town Meetings



Fr. John will be hosting Town Meetings
following the Masses of **March 8-9 at St. Francis**
and **March 15-16 at St. Mary's Church.**

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



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

March 8 through March 14, is National Catholic Sisters Week.

It was established in 2014 to honor women religious
and to encourage those women who are considering a
vocation in religious life. Check out the web site:
nationalcatholicsistersweek.org.

And... Happy Sisters Week to Sister Kathleen!
Thank you for all you do.

LENTEN REFLECTION GROUP

The Lenten Reflection group meets on Tuesday morn-
ings after the 8 am Mass—around 8:30 am.
The group is led by Kathy Devaney and all
are most welcome to come and join in.

OLD CHARLESTOWN SCHOOLBOYS ASSOCIATION

is pleased to announce that there are a number of **\$1,000.**
scholarships to high school senior boys who will be enter-
ing college or preparatory school or technical school this
year. Some of these scholarships will also be awarded to
college students who will be entering their sophomore,
junior or senior year.

Applications for these scholarships are open to any
Charlestown schoolboy who is a senior in high school, has
been a resident of Charlestown for 4 years or more; and
will be entering college or preparatory school or technical
school this year. Applications are available at the
Charlestown Catholic Collaborative Parish Center, The
Charlestown Public Library and the Boys & Girls Club.



Rice Bowls are at the back of the Church!

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

Saturday, March 8
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 + Dorothea Pennucci & Carlos Horta

Monday, March 10
8 am
5 pm Holy Hour

Tuesday, March 11
8 am

Wednesday, March 12
8 am

Thursday, March 13
8 am

Friday, March 14
8 am
5:30 pm Stations of the Cross


Saturday, March 15
9 am
4 pm + Lawrence Mahoney

Sunday, March 16
8 am + Colleen Bowman
11 am + Elizabeth & Joseph Pelosi
6 pm + John P & Theresa Rita

*St. Francis de Sales
Mass Intentions*

Saturday, March 8
4 pm + Br. Francis Gillen & Cmd. Robert Gillen

Sunday, March 9
9:30 am + Michael Elwell



Saturday, March 15
4 pm +

Sunday, March 16
9:30 am

Reminder: Next Monday, March 17, the Holy Hour will take place at St Francis and the Stations of the Cross will be held as well at St. Francis on Friday, March 21st

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
\$4,583.60
to the weekly collection



*Requiescat in
Pace*

*Brian Francis
McCabe*

St Francis de Sales

Weekend of February 23th
Parishioners gave
\$1,217.00
to the weekly collection

St Francis de Sales

3/1
4pm 57
3/2
9:30 am 53
Total 110

St Mary—St Catherine of Siena

3/1
4 pm 83
3/2
8 am 54
11 am 110
6 pm 89
Total 336



Saint Francis de Sales
Church
Sanctuary Lamp
is lit for

Florence & Eugene
Connors

St. Francis de Sales

UPCOMING COLLECTIONS

Mar. 9 Capital Improvement
Apr. 6 Capital Improvement

St. Mary - St Catherine of Siena
UPCOMING COLLECTIONS

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



Saint Mary Church
Sanctuary Lamp
is lit for

Sarah Farmer-
Williams

Welcome

We are grateful to you!

COMMUNITY NEWS & INFO



FORWARD *in* FAITH

CATHOLIC APPEAL LAUNCH – WEEKEND OF MARCH 16

Next weekend, the 2025 Catholic Appeal will officially launch here at St Francis de Sales parish and St. Mary—St. Catherine of Siena Parish and across our Archdiocese. As your pastor, I hope and encourage you to join me in making a gift to this year’s Catholic Appeal. As we celebrate the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope, our participation in the Catholic Appeal signifies an important way that we can share Christ’s promise, care, and love with others. For those who have already made a gift, please know that I am deeply grateful. We are hoping to have 100% participation from each parish! When the parish reaches it’s Appeal goal that parish will receive funds back for local programs and ministries.

To make an online gift, please visit:
www.bostoncatholicappeal.org.

Thank you for moving us “Forward in Faith”!



Instrumentalists and Choir Members Needed !

If you play an instrument and/or can sing and would like to share your talent, please contact John Volpe at javolpay@gmail.com or speak with

John after one of the Masses.

All are welcome.



March 9 ~ First Sunday of Lent

It is significant that on this First Sunday of Lent we hear of the temptations of Jesus. They are often interpreted as representing the broader human struggles we have with desires of the flesh, the desire for signs and proofs, and the lure of worldly power and success. Those desires have a way of creeping into our lives and damaging our relationship both with God and those we love. Lent gives us the opportunity to reorder our lives, to step away from those things that alienate us from God and to focus our attention on the essentials of our faith. St. Paul challenges us today: “if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” This Lent, take time at the end of each day to consider where temptations might have arisen but where instead, you relied on the power of God’s grace to guide you.

Jubilee Year 2025: Pilgrims of Hope

How can we gain indulgences by participating in the Jubilee Year if all the doors are in Rome?

To receive an indulgence, we must do the action required, confess our sins and be detached from all sin, receive the Eucharist in Mass, and pray for the pope’s intentions (within twenty days). The actions to receive a jubilee indulgence require visiting a pilgrimage site and attending a liturgy, do a penitential practice, or perform a spiritual or corporeal work of mercy. Go to bit.ly/JubileeOfHope to see all the events throughout the archdiocese.



Primer Domingo de Cuaresma Fin de Semana del 8/9 de marzo de 2025

La segunda lectura de San Pablo a los romanos es una de las favoritas de quienes participan en el ministerio de la evangelización. No hay discípulos “secretos” del Señor. Quienes ejercitan la buena corresponsabilidad de su fe se dan cuenta de que identificarse públicamente como seguidores de Cristo tiene un efecto purificador en sus vidas. Confesar abiertamente a Cristo les hace más conscientes de cómo viven su vida diaria. ¿Estamos satisfechos de privatizar nuestra fe o somos buenos corresponsables de una fe que compartimos, hacemos pública e identificamos habitualmente como una vida en Cristo?

Año jubilar 2025: Peregrinos de esperanza

¿Qué relación existe entre el Año Jubilar, las peregrinaciones y las puertas santas?

Durante los años de Jubileo, el Papa abre puertas para que la gente pueda pasar y obtener indulgencias. A veces, permite que las puertas santas se encuentren en distintas partes del mundo. Este año, las únicas puertas santas están en Roma. Pasar por una “puerta santa” ha sido tradicionalmente un signo de conversión, el paso de la antigua vida a una vida de celo y fe renovados. Para recibir una indulgencia, debemos, además de las acciones requeridas por este año jubilar, cumplir los siguientes requisitos: confesarnos (dentro de los veinte días siguientes a la acción requerida), y despojarnos de todo afecto al pecado, recibir la Eucaristía en la Misa y rezar por las intenciones del Papa. Para recibir una indulgencia jubilar, es necesario visitar un lugar de peregrinación y participar en una liturgia, realizar una práctica penitencial o llevar a cabo una obra de misericordia, ya sea espiritual o corporal. Obten más información sobre el Año Jubilar y los eventos visitando el siguiente enlace bit.ly/JubileeOfHope.

International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Fatima is coming to the Archdiocese of Boston March 21st-April 5th, 2025

You are invited to come and experience the blessings of Our Lady of Fatima during this special statue visitation, sponsored and coordinated by

World Apostolate of Fatima, Boston. www.wafboston.org.

The world-famous International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Fatima has visited more than 100 countries, including Russia and China, bringing Mary’s powerful message of salvation and hope to millions of people. Countless favors and graces have been reported wherever the Virgin Statue has traveled.

Fiat (3/19)

Fiat, a gathering of women interested in learning more about religious life, cordially invites you to the next meeting on Wednesday, March 19, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. (ET) on Zoom. The topic will be “Catholic Sisters Week.” If you are interested in attending, please contact Sr. Marian Batho, CSJ at marian.batho@csjboston.org or 617-746-2025 for more information and the link to the meeting.

A Morning for Christian Mental Health Professionals (3/29)

The Family Life team invites all Christian/Catholic mental health professionals to a breakfast gathering on Sat., March 29 from 9:00-11:45 AM at the Pastoral Center, Braintree. Come to pray, connect, share ideas, and resources, and enjoy fellowship together. Bishop Cristiano Barbosa will offer Mass with a special blessing upon the participants. For more information visit bit.ly/MHProfessionalsBreakfast.



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.

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>

**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**

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

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



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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



THANKS TO THESE SPONSORS WE ARE ABLE TO PROVIDE YOU WITH YOUR BULLETIN FREE EACH WEEK

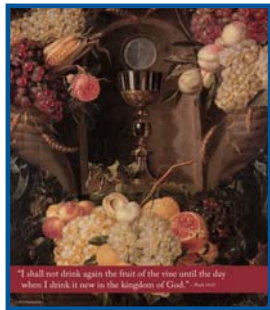
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"WHERE THERE IS DESPAIR, I MAY BRING HOPE" - ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

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"Jesus Wept." John 11:35

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