

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

July 27, 2025

Lord, teach us

“When you pray, say:

Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come.

Give us each day our daily bread and forgive us our sins

for we ourselves forgive everyone in debt to us,

and do not subject us to the final test.”

to pray.

Luke 11:1-4

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

St. Catherine Chapel
at St. Mary Church

Mon - Fri 8 am
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

info@charlestowncatholic.org

stfrancischarlestown.org

stmarystcatherine.org

JUST AN FYI

While Father Sheridan is away this week, Communion Services will be offered in the Chapel on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 8:00am. There will be Mass at 8:00am on Monday and Wednesday.

EXCERPT FROM THE MESSAGE OF THE HOLY FATHER FOR THE 5th WORLD DAY FOR

GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY 2025

[27 July 2025]

The elderly as signs of hope

"In the Bible, God repeatedly demonstrates his providential care by turning to people in their later years. This was the case not only with Abraham, Sarah, Zechariah and Elizabeth, but also with Moses, who was called to set his people free when he was already eighty years old (cf. Ex 7:7). God thus teaches us that, in his eyes, old age is a time of blessing and grace, and that the elderly are, for him, the first witnesses of hope. Augustine asks, "What do we mean by old age?" He tells us that God himself answers the question: "Let your strength fail, so that my strength may abide within you, and you can say with the Apostle, 'When I am weak, then I am strong'" (Super Ps. 70,11). The increasing number of elderly people is a sign of the times that we are called to discern, in order to interpret properly this moment of history."

From the Vatican, 26 June 2025



FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION OF MARY

August 15th

This feast day is a day when
Catholics are obliged to attend Mass.

St Mary Church - 9:00 am
St Francis de Sales Church - 6:00 pm

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.

July 27 ~ Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

God was no stranger to Abraham. Our first reading gives us a glimpse into their relationship. Abraham's faithfulness and closeness to the God made him comfortable and free to engage in this back and forth with God. How do you react to Abraham's persistence? Such a conversation would never happen between strangers. Jesus urges us in the gospel to see the importance of prayer as a way of developing that relationship with God. He wants us to feel a special closeness to God, such that we can speak honestly and openly to God in our prayer. Developing that kind of friendship with God takes perseverance in prayer, setting time aside each day for quiet honest heart-to-heart sharing. The fruit that is borne is lifesaving!

27 de julio ~ Decimoséptimo Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

Dios no era ajeno a Abraham. Nuestra primera lectura nos da una idea de su relación. La fidelidad y cercanía de Abraham a Dios lo hicieron sentir cómodo y libre para participar en este ir y venir con Dios. ¿Cómo reaccionas ante la persistencia de Abraham? Una conversación así nunca ocurriría entre extraños. Jesús nos insta en el evangelio a ver la importancia de la oración como una forma de desarrollar esa relación con Dios. Él quiere que sintamos una cercanía especial a Dios, de tal manera que podamos hablar honesta y abiertamente a Dios en nuestra oración. Desarrollar ese tipo de amistad con Dios requiere perseverancia en la oración, apartando tiempo cada día para compartir de corazón a corazón de manera tranquila y honesta. ¡El fruto que se da salva vidas!

Jubilee Year 2025: Pilgrims of Hope

What does hope mean?

Hope is a virtue, meaning a good habit where we become used to acting hopefully in a balanced manner, not foolishly optimistic but rooted in trust in Jesus. It is a theological virtue, meaning we need God's grace to allow us live hope in the manner of children of God.

"Hope is the theological virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ's promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1817).

Preguntas Frecuentes Sobre el Año Jubilar 2025

¿Qué significa la esperanza?

La esperanza es una virtud, lo que significa un buen hábito en el que nos acostumbramos a actuar con esperanza de manera equilibrada, no con un optimismo tonto, sino enraizados en la confianza en Jesús. Es una virtud teológica, lo que significa que necesitamos la gracia de Dios para permitirnos vivir la esperanza a la manera de los hijos de Dios.

"La esperanza es la virtud teológica por la que aspiramos al Reino de los cielos y a la vida eterna como felicidad nuestra, poniendo nuestra confianza en las promesas de Cristo y apoyándonos no en nuestras fuerzas, sino en los auxilios de la gracia del Espíritu Santo." (*Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica*, 1817).

Stay connected when away from the Parish.

- If you would like a bulletin mailed to you, please contact the office
- Visit our website to view the latest bulletin (under resources)
- Watch our live-streamed 11:00 am Sunday Mass every week on our website or Facebook page



Cursillo Is a crash course in Christianity. If you would like to know more about your faith, consider a Cursillo retreat. Nancy Higgins is our parish coordinator. Please call the Parish Center if you are interested in learning about Cursillo retreats at 617-242-4664

Keep in mind

Fr. John will be out of state this week.

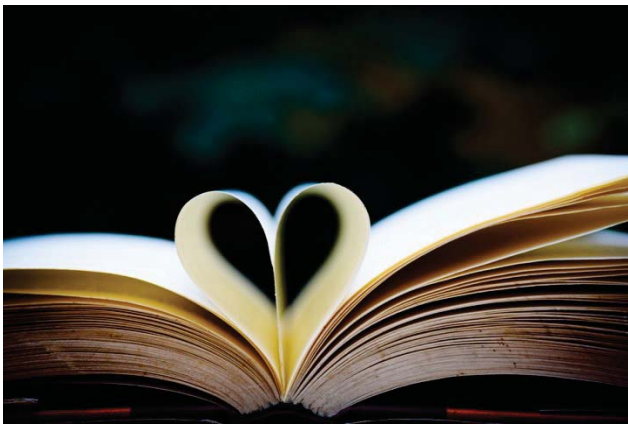
On Tues, Thurs, Fri and Sat,

Communion services will be prayed at 8 am.

On Monday and Wednesday, Mass will be offered.

A Special Guest

This weekend, Fr. John Olenick will be visiting St. Mary-St. Catherine to offer Mass and speak about the Unbound community, a Catholic organization dedicated to ministering to the poor in 19 countries.



Faith Formation

It's not too early to plan ahead, and we are planning for 2025-26! Registration has begun- just call the Offices at **617-242-4664** or go to **charlestowncatholic.org!** We'll begin on **Tuesday, Sept. 23rd at 4 pm** with a party at 46 Winthrop Street!

A new resident is coming to 49 Vine St.

Soon, Fr. Patrick Mpete will be moving into the rectory in early August for his studies at BC.

Summertime

In this summer season, please don't forget to donate to our parishes- this time of year can be challenging, as Mass attendance drops with **bills to pay all year long.**

Please give online or mail in your envelopes so we can keep on planning and building for what's ahead. Call James Santosuoso at the offices and learn how you can give generously and easily. Thank you in advance!

Conversations!

On Thursdays this summer at 6:30 pm at 46 Winthrop St, we will have a series of discussions in person and via Zoom on the sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation. Join the conversation and be careful, you might learn something! Please let Fr. John know if you can join him!

Symbolon returns

Symbolon will begin again every other Monday starting Sept. 15 at 7 pm at St. Catherine's Chapel. Join us for an hour of learning and discussion!



Something very special from Harvest on Vine is coming Thursday, Oct. 16. Watch this space!

En Espanol

At the 11 am Sunday Mass, some parts are in Spanish, and some folks have asked what is being said, wanting to join in the responses. Here are a few:

Gospel Proclamation:

The priest proclaims: "The Lord be with you."

We respond: **"Y con tu Espiritu."**

Priest: "A reading from the Holy Gospel according to (name of the writer)".

We respond: **"Gloria a ti, Señor".**

At the end he says: "The Gospel of the Lord".

We respond: **"Gloria a ti, Señor Jesús".**

Universal Prayer/ Prayer of the Faithful:

Our response: **Te rogamos, Señor, oyenos.**



17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Kids naturally want to do things for themselves and so will often ask mom or dad to “show me how” to do things, from tying their shoes to driving a car. We teach kids how to play games, how to read, how to ride a bike and how to clean their room. But the best teaching does not come by way of explanation, but by example. Kids mimic what they see and hear their parents do. And they learn those lessons so well. Ever hear a three-year-old use some interesting language? Some lessons are taught, and others are caught!

There are many ways that we teach. We mentor, instruct, direct, demonstrate, explain and assist. But when it comes to faith, the most important of all is witness. The best lessons we teach are the ones that we practice as we preach! Good example is the most powerful tool. If I want my children to be truthful, I cannot lie, even little ‘white lies.’ If I want them to be honest, I cannot cheat. If I want them to be holy, I must have my own relationship with the Lord and be genuine in my beliefs. I have to pray, receive the sacraments and participate in my parish. We teach kids to do so many things so well; let’s include our faith. Make your life the best answer to the unspoken request: Show me!

~James Gaffney © Karides Lic. to Pilot Bulletins

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/RCA
Baptism Prep
Confirmation
Religious Ed K – 6
Spiritual Committee
Wedding Committee

SOCIAL MINISTRIES

Family Ministry
Social Ministry
St. Francis Hall Committee

Jubilee for Catechists, September 27 @ 10 am

Save the date!

Blessed Andrew Phu Yen Parish, Medford

Calling all catechists in the Archdiocese of Boston! That means you - parents, faith formation leaders, teachers, volunteers, OCIA and youth ministry teams, etc. Join us for a celebration to include Mass and a Catechist Commissioning with Archbishop Henning, lunch and fellowship, a trivia competition hosted by

Fr. Denis Nakkeeran, and free access to Franciscan at Home!

Go to bit.ly/JubileeCatechists to learn more and sign up!



Talk by Immaculee Ilibagiza

Thursday, Sept. 4 6 - 7:30 pm

Immaculate Conception Church (11 Prospect St, Marlborough)

Immaculate Conception Parish of Marlborough is presenting a talk by Immaculee Ilibagiza based on her best-selling book “Left to Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust”. There will be a voluntary \$10/person donation requested. icmarlboro.org/jubilee-2025

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

Saturday, July 26
9 am
4 pm + Fr. Lawrence Rondeau
Sunday, July 27
8 am + Edna Boyle
11 am
6 pm
Monday, July 28
8 am
Tuesday, July 29
8 am
Wednesday, July 30
8 am + Bau Tran Doan
Thursday, July 31
8 am
Friday, August 1
8 am
Saturday August 2
9 am
4 pm + Frank & Nora Butler
Sunday, August 3
8 am
11 am + Sue Tubbs
6 pm

*St. Francis de Sales
Mass Intentions*

Saturday, July 26
4 pm + Thomas Fahey

Sunday, July 27
9:30 am



Saturday, August 2
4 pm

Sunday, August 3
9:30 am

We are grateful to you!

CHARLESTOWN CATHOLIC

Faith Formation classes



Religious Education, also known as Rel Ed or Faith Formation, gives students the information and the tools that they need to realize and respond to God's love for them.

Our program at St. Mary- St. Catherine of Siena and St. Francis de Sales Parishes guides students into a closer relationship with God and our Catholic community by providing them with a solid Catholic education from grades K-10, and preparing them for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Communion, and Confirmation.

We want to teach the children of this worshipping community to come to know God, learn to love God, and to live a life in response to God's love! Parents' participation in all aspects of our program is essential to its purpose and success. Children learn best by example. We ask that you give your children's religious education the importance the children deserve. By working together, parish and family, our faith will fill the hearts of our children!

Registration has begun!

Classes begin on Tuesday, Sept. 23rd at 4 pm
Visit our web site to register—charlestowncatholic.org
or drop by or call the Parish Office at 617.242.4664

St Mary St Catherine
Weekend of July 19/20
Parishioners contributed
\$3,226.65
to the Weekly collection
And \$889.00
To the monthly collection



St Mary Church
Sanctuary Lamp
is lit for
Nora & Frank Butler

St Francis de Sales
Weekend of July 19/20
Parishioners contributed
\$1,689.00
to the Weekly collection
And \$ 432.00
For the
Parish Deficit Collection

St Mary St Catherine
7/19
4 pm 54
7/20
8 am 61
11 am 131
6 pm 44
Total 290



St Francis de Sales
Sanctuary Lamp
is lit for
Ron Taylor

St Francis de Sales
7/19
4 pm 37
7/20
9:30 am 67
Total 104

St. Mary - St Catherine of Siena UPCOMING COLLECTIONS

August 15	Assumption
August 17	Monthly
September 14	Monthly
September 21	Clergy Benefit



Requiescant in Pace

James Smithson

*Alice Imelda (Applegate)
Fitzgerald*

St. Francis de Sales UPCOMING COLLECTIONS

August 3	Capital Improvement
August 17	Parish Deficit
August 31	Mission Appeal
September 14	Capital Improvement
September 21	Clergy Benefit

COMMUNITY NEWS & INFO

Mass Intentions—To book a Mass, please call the 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. It is a 7 day candle.

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— 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*

. I invite you to ponder whether you can assist us in one of these ministries

We are inclined to think that serving in ministry is more for someone else and we are not worthy to do that. Well, no one IS worthy! However, many are able to lend a hand and with preparation and support, carry out a much needed and important ministry at the Parish.

Please read below and pray and talk with us – if you feel so called.



Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are adult Catholics in good standing *who have a love for the Eucharist and wish to serve their fellow parishioners*. Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are ordinary Christians who model Christian living in faith and conduct in their ministry and in their daily lives.



Ministers of the Word (Lectors)

Lectors are adult Catholics in good standing *who have a love for the Word of God and wish to serve their fellow parishioners* as a Minister of the Word. The Liturgy of the Word is an essential component of the Eucharistic Liturgy. The Ministry of Lector is to proclaim the Word of God in the assembly of the people.



Greeters and Ushers

Greeters and ushers are a group of dedicated men and women of all ages. Greeters faithfully welcome our parishioners and visitors as they arrive for Mass. Ushers are responsible for taking up the collection during the Mass.

For more information, please contact at 617-242-4664 or talk to Fr. Sheridan after the Mass.



LOCATED AT 20 WINTHROP ST.
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 go to
director@gsscharlestown.org.



PLEASE REMEMBER THE POOR BOXES AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH

Because of your ongoing support, we were able to help 33 families since January, 2025 with beds and bureaus, couches or chairs and tables for kitchens as well as rental assistance and other necessities along with advocating for tenants who need assistance. We thank you very much for your donations to our Parish's Conference of St. Vincent De Paul. In doing so you are helping your neighbors in need. Please continue to keep our neighbors in need in mind. Thank you!



Summer Cereal Drive for Harvest on Vine -

As school gets out for summer, the food pantry needs your help! Please drop off a box or two of cereal at the back of the church at the weekend Masses for our families. You can also drop off boxes at 46 Winthrop throughout the week.

Thank you for all your continued generosity.

CULTURE

By Michelle DiFranco



ST. DOMINIC'S ORANGE TREE SOWED THE SEEDS OF FAITH

Enjoy This Sweet Treat in His Honor

"We must sow the seed, not hoard it." – St. Dominic

An old orange tree stands enclosed in a courtyard at Santa Sabina on the Aventine Hill in Rome. While there are a few versions of the legend surrounding this tree, one is that St. Dominic planted the seed from which it grew and that every time the orange tree produces a new shoot with much fruit, there would be a corresponding abundance and growth in the Dominican Order.

Whether that is pure legend, or some kind of ongoing worldly miracle, I don't know. But what can be said is that the Dominican order and its many beautiful shoots continue to bless the world with the same charisms of its founder – bearing fruit still today! That by itself is a miracle that blesses us all.

Dominic was born in Caleruega, Spain, in 1170. He was ordained to the priesthood at the age of 24.

While traveling throughout Europe as a young man, Dominic witnessed firsthand the heresies that were threatening the Church. Dominic would go on to establish the Order of Preachers, or the Dominicans, to combat heresy and to form an order based on the monastic life and religious poverty.

The order today includes friars, nuns, sisters and laity.

St. Dominic worked to spread truth intelligently. His order read and distributed books to educate people with a proper understanding of the Gospels, while simultaneously living the example of sacrifice and humility. In a world beset by heresy, Dominic used books to teach the

ignorant. In a world plagued by famine, Dominic in turn sold his books to feed the hungry. The Dominican Order's model was to connect a life of contemplative prayer and study with an active preaching for the salvation of souls. We honor St. Dominic on Aug. 8.

While it may be tough to plant an orange tree in his honor, might I suggest the following sweet treat instead! And may it remind us to sow the seeds of faith and help educate others with the truth of the Gospel the way St. Dominic did.

Orange Creamsicle Pie

1 3-ounce package orange flavored gelatin dessert
1 cup hot water
1 8-ounce package cream cheese (softened)
1 tablespoon orange zest
1/3 cup confectioner's sugar
1/2 teaspoon lemon juice
1/4 cup orange juice
1 cup heavy whipping cream
1 store-bought graham cracker crust
Whipped cream and orange wedges (for topping)

Dissolve gelatin powder in hot water. Set aside to cool. In a mixing bowl, beat the cream cheese until smooth. Add the orange zest, sugar, lemon and orange juices and beat until combined. Add the cooled gelatin mixture and beat until just combined and smooth in texture. Place in fridge and chill until almost set (about 35-45 minutes).

In a separate mixing bowl, beat the whipping cream for 2-3 minutes until it thickens. Add to the chilled gelatin mixture and beat until combined and smooth in texture. Pour into the graham cracker pie crust and spread evenly. Refrigerate until fully set (at least 6 hours or overnight). Serve with whipped cream and orange wedges on top.



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

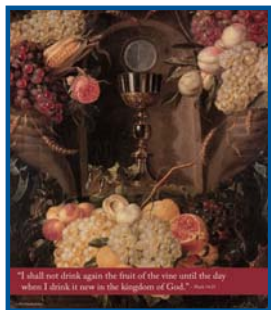
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