



THE SFSC MESSENGER

St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi Parish

We are a welcoming community of Jesus' disciples who journey together in right Faith, certain Hope, and live out His Love in Word and Deed

December 17 2023

Weekend Mass Schedule

- Saturday 4:00pm**
St Stephen
- Sunday 9:30am**
St Stephen
- Sunday 9:30am**
St Patrick
- Sunday 11:00am**
St Catherine of Siena
- Sunday 1:00pm**
St Catherine of Siena
(Polish - English Mass)
- Sunday, 7:00pm**
St Catherine of Siena

Live-Stream Mass:

Sunday, December 10th
9:30am Mass
St Stephen

Weekday Mass Schedule

Tuesday—Friday 7:00am
Tuesday—12:00pm
Saturday—9:00am
St Catherine of Siena Church

Friday—9:00am
St Stephen Church

CONFESSION TIMES:

First Wednesday of the month
7pm (includes a Holy Hour)
St Stephen Church

Thursday 7 & 21 December
7:30pm (**not Dec 14th**).
(includes a Holy Hour)
Saturdays 9:30am
St. Catherine of Siena Church

Third Sunday of Advent—Gaudete Sunday

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near"



4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 23

4:00pm— St Stephen Church

December 24:

9:30am—St Stephen Church
9:30am—St Patrick Church
11:00am—St Catherine of Siena Church
1:00pm (Polish/English)

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

December 24th:

6:00pm— St Catherine of Siena Church

The children invite you to the presentation of the Christmas Story at 5:40 pm

6:00pm— St Stephen Church
8:00pm—St Patrick Church
10:00pm—(Polish/English Mass) St Catherine of Siena
(There is NO 7pm Mass at St Catherine of Siena Church)

December 25th:

9:30am— St Patrick Church
9:30am—St Stephen Church
11:00am—St Catherine of Siena Church
1:00 pm **Polish/English** Mass—
St. Catherine of Siena

FEAST OF St STEPHEN

December 26th:

10:00am St Stephen Church
10:00am (Polish/English) St Catherine of Siena Church

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Dec 30th—4:00pm St Stephen Church

Dec 31st—9:30am St Patrick Church
9:30am St Stephen Church
11:00am St Catherine of Siena Church
1:00pm (Polish/English)
St Catherine of Siena Church

NO 7:00 pm MASS AT

St Catherine of Siena Church

MARY MOTHER OF GOD

New Year's Eve/day
Dec 31st—4:00pm St Stephen Church
Jan 01st—9:30 am St Patrick Church
9:30am St Stephen Church
11:00am St Catherine of Siena
1:00pm Polish/English mass
St Catherine of Siena

PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO WEEKDAY MASSES DECEMBER 26—29

Adoration and Confession

1st Wednesday
of the Month
7:00pm - Holy Hour of
Eucharistic Adoration,
Confession available
St Stephen's Church

Wednesdays/Fridays
Eucharistic Adoration
8:00am-4:00pm
St Catherine's Church

Thursdays
7:30pm - Holy Hour of
Eucharistic Adoration,
Confession available
St Catherine's Church

Mass Intentions

Tuesday, December 18th
Bill Quinn+
Noon St Catherine of Siena

Friday, December 22nd
Troy Galloway+
9:00am St Stephen

Saturday, December 23rd
Bertha Leadley+
9:00am St Catherine of Siena

GET INVOLVED

IF YOU ARE NEW TO OUR PARISH COMMUNITY OR YOU HAVE BEEN WITH US FOR AGES; IT IS NEVER TOO LATE TO GET MORE INVOLVED WITH THIS AMAZING FAITH COMMUNITY. CALL THE PARISH OFFICE TO LEARN MORE
902-454-8221



Religious Education

(GRADES PRIMARY TO SIX)

St. Catherine's Church— This Sunday, December 17th, our last class before the Christmas break will take place in the Church Hall from 10:00-10:45 am. Classes will resume on Sunday, January 7th!

St. Stephen's Church – We are pleased to let you know that Sunday School Classes for Level Three, Four, Five and Six will begin at Saint Stephen's church in the hall today, **December 17th, after the 9:30 Mass.** Registration forms are at the back of the church to be filled out for any children who will be attending. We will be alternating the Children's Liturgy and Sunday School Classes.



To adore the Blessed Sacrament is to accompany Jesus Himself in the moment of His sacrifice for humanity. The enormous grace Eucharistic Adoration provides is part of our lives as Catholics. Therefore, Eucharistic Adoration on Wednesdays and Fridays at St Catherine's will start now at 8am after the Franciscan Mass to give more parishioners the chance to spend time with Christ. Please contact the Parish Office if you want to become a permanent adorer. We always need volunteers

Please Note: the parish office will be closed Dec 25—Jan 01. We will reopen on January 02.

PHONE MESSAGES WILL BE CHECKED EVERY DAY AND TIME SENSITIVE ISSUES WILL BE ADDRESSED.



Youth Group is on Christmas break and will resume on January 17. For more information or to register, please contact Anna Irish (annamichelleirish@gmail.com).

Live Nativity 2023



Come and experience the joy of the 1st Noel all over again! ~

St Theresa's Church Parking Lot (6351 North St)

December 23rd 5-7pm

6:00 Christmas Gospel Proclamation & Carols

With a real live Mary, Joseph and Jesus, live animals, a stable, shepherds and wise-men; come and help us bring that Bethlehem night to life with a tradition started by St Francis 800 years ago! Bundle up, come enjoy some hot chocolate, and join in the Live Nativity scene.

Instead of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh, feel free to bring a non-perishable food item for Feed N.S.

This year, on the 800th anniversary of St Francis' Live Nativity, the Catholic Church is offering a special Plenary Indulgence! It will be for all those who come to venerate a Nativity in a Franciscan church, along with doing the other requirements. Consider making *this* your stop for prayer with a Nativity!

WE HAVE A NEW WEBSITE FOR THE PARISH. IT IS A WORK IN PROGRESS BUT IT IS A START!

WE WILL NO LONGER HAVE INDIVIDUAL CHURCH SITES BUT IT WILL ALL BE IN ONE SPOT, FOR EASY ACCESS.

<https://stfrancisandstclareparish.ca/>

LOVE IN ACTION

St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi has conferences of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul working out of each church location within the Parish. Below are updates from each location regarding the Christmas support. Our community has shown.



St. Patrick's—The Society of St. Vincent de Paul wishes to thank everyone who donated to our Christmas appeal. We distributed \$15,570 in Sobeys food vouchers. There were 132 Home visits made to a total of 195 adults and 68 children. Each child got a \$50 gift card to the Halifax Shopping Center. Our giving tree raised \$3,555 in support of our Christmas help program. Our Total help was \$19,170.

St. Catherine's— St. Catherine's – Although deliveries have now taken place to those within our community who have reached out for help this Christmas, tags remain on the tree as we continue to raise the funds needed to support this program. This year, 62 families have been assisted. Donations can be placed in the collection at any Sunday Mass. No gift is too small. Together, we can make a difference!

St. Theresa's—The family of Jake McDonald held a 90th birthday party for him last month at the Lion's Head tavern. Jake was a tireless volunteer for the St Theresa's Conference of SSVP for easily 50 years.

A cash jar for donations to our Conference was placed at the table amongst the cards and birthday cake and the final tally was \$340 raised. A thanks to Jake's family and to Jake himself as a model of Catholic action in the service of the poor.

PS Almost one half of the list of suggested gifts for the residents of St Vincent's Nursing Home have been taken up. An email will be sent out Friday showing which suggestions are left

St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi Parish Vision Prayer

“Heavenly Father, we the parishioners of St. Francis & St. Clare of Assisi Parish call upon you to guide, strengthen and support us as we move forward, united in pursuit of our shared vision. Help us always to be a welcoming community of Jesus' disciples who journey together in right Faith and certain Hope and live out His Love in word and deed. May your Holy Spirit kindle our hearts and illuminate our path as we strive to achieve this vision for our Parish. We make this prayer through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.”

SHELTER NEWS

Two new guests moved into our parish's emergency shelters last week. Both were glad to have a warm, dry, secure place to sleep and keep some of their clothes and belongings.

It was December 16, 2021 when the first guest moved into emergency shelters in this parish as part of the Archdiocese program.

There are now 25 shelters on church properties, from Digby to Bridgewater, Amherst and the Metro area. The diocesan focus is supporting our guests to find safe, affordable housing.

You can help by donating grocery cards. Just place them in the collection, with your name and address for tax receipting. You can indicate if it is to support the St Stephen's shelter, or the shelters at St Theresa's.

Thank you for your on-going support, and prayers for a just end to this crisis of homelessness and hunger.

Let's heed the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor and let's act!



Pope Francis calls us to hear “the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor” (*Laudato Si'*, 49). Yet, since 2015, the communities of Guapinol and the San Pedro sector have been trying in vain to be heard. In their struggle for justice, defenders are attacked, criminalized and even killed. Eight defenders were unjustly imprisoned for over two years, and three people have been

murdered since January 2023.

“The Government of Honduras must act diligently and suspend these extractive activities, which are carried out illegally and with total disregard for the environment.”

– Elvin Hernández, human rights investigator, ERIC –Radio Progreso

Act now!

Sign the letter to the Honduran ambassador to Canada asking her government for protection, justice and reparation for environmental defenders and for Carlos Escaleras National Park (devp.org/act). **Development and Peace representatives will also be at some of the parish Masses this Sunday to collect signatures.**”

PARISH NEWS

SVDP Contact #s for food support

St Catherine
902-455-6525

St Stephen
902-405-3686

St Patrick
902-405-3806

St Theresa
902-414-4625

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MEET OUR TEAM

Fr Nathanael DesRoches
Administrator

Fr Robert Nicholas
Associate Pastor

Rev Mr Len Moore
Rev Mr Paul Carnell

Brent Hopkins
Operations Manager

Sr Rita Hanna, FoH

Sr. Teresa MacDonald
Office Manager

Cheryl Delaney
Administrative Assistant



Pastoral Council Seeking New Members Aged 18-35

The Parish Pastoral Council is a consultative body of a fully initiated practicing members of the parish whose task is to assist the pastor and other parish leadership for the parish's growth in mission, formation and as a community of faith. We are seeking to add two new members, aged 18-35, ideally one male and one female. Candidates should be active members of our Parish, willing to give of their time, talent and wisdom in a collaborative manner, and interested in being engaged in pastoral planning work and initiatives.

If you or someone you know is interested, please reach out to the Parish office at office@stfrancisandstclareparish.ca to submit an expression of interest or nomination. A reminder that if nominating someone else, it is always a good idea to first approach that person to ensure that they are in fact interested in having their name put forward. Thank you for considering!



Due to issue both in the parish office and with the company that makes our donation envelopes, they are later than usual arriving. Hopefully they will be here this week for pickup next weekend. If you do not have your new envelopes on time, you can place your donation in a plain envelope with your envelope number on it or your name and address and it will be added to your record.

Fr. Nathanael is sending out an invitation to all parishioner to join him on Sunday, December 31st, for our first Parish Skating Party. The Centennial Arena on Vimy Avenue has been booked from 2:00 – 3:30 pm. Pull out those skates and get them sharpened to be ready for the 31st! Following the skate, everyone is invited back to St. Catherine's Church Hall for a bite to eat!

Mark your calendars!



We are still accepting donations for the purchase of Christmas flowers at each Church location. If you wish to make a donation or a donation in memory of a

loved one, please mark your name, contact information and envelope number on a plain, white envelope and place it in the regular collection at any weekend Mass. We will be pleased to acknowledge these remembrances in the Christmas Parish bulletin. Thank you!



2024 Parish Calendars

are now available for purchase! The cost is \$10.00 while supplies last. Each

month contains images of our parishioners enjoying the many events and festivities hosted throughout the past year.

Calendars will be available at our the three churches as well as the parish office during regular business hours.

Anyone wishing to submit announcements for the bulletin is asked to send them to bulletin@stfrancisandstclareparish.ca by 9:00am each Tuesday morning. Thanks kindly!

St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi Parish

PARISH WALK-IN HOURS: MON/WED/FRI 9:00AM TO 12NOON
(voicemail will be returned every day)

Email: office@stfrancisandstclareparish.ca

Parish Office: 902-454-8221

Address: 6351 North Street, Halifax, B3L 1P7