



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

Live-Stream Mass:

Live stream

Dec 24th
6:00pm Mass
St Stephen

Mass Schedule

FEAST OF ST STEPHEN

Dec 26:
10:00 am St Stephen
10:00am St Catherine
(Polish/English)

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Dec 30:
St Stephen 4:00pm

Dec 31:
9:30am St Stephen
9:30am St Patrick
11:00 am St Catherine
1:00p (Polish/English)

NO 7:00 PM MASS

MARY MOTHER OF GOD

Dec 31:
4:00pm St Stephen

Jan 01:
9:30 am St Patrick
9:30am St Stephen
11:00am St Catherine of Siena & 1:00pm (Polish/English)

December 25 2023

The Nativity of the Lord

"Let us all rejoice in the Lord, for our Saviour has been born in the world. Today true peace has come down to us from heaven."



My Dear Friends;

We enter Christmas with great joy and thanksgiving, where all words fall short in describing the Mystery of Jesus' incarnation and birth. Awe and wonder should be our loving prayer rising from the depths of our heart. Because of Christ Jesus' birth nothing can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord when we place all our trust and hope in Him ~ who is our Life, the Light of all His Children, our Peace, and our secure dwelling place.

Where do you dwell Lord? Look in the humble Womb of the Virgin, look in the poor abode of the manger, look on the Wood of the Cross. All these Divine Mysteries are meant to stir forth in us the fire of His Love, which perfects us, in the words of St John of the Cross: *"To know and Love, as we are known and Loved"*.

As we continue the journey of perfection, which is total conversion of our hearts to Christ Jesus our Lord, stirred by the Grace of God in this blessed season, we elevate our life by entering deeply into the mystery of the birth of Jesus, our saviour. This mystery is our dwelling place ~ Christmas is an encounter, the decisive encounter, between God and mankind.

These days let us run to Mary in Bethlehem, who kept the perfect dwelling for her Creator. We ask her intercession, to prepare our hearts to be a poor but receptive dwelling for her Son. Let us perceive "God with us" and the mystery of light that shines within us.

May you and your loved ones be blessed by so great a Mystery of the Father's love for all He as created. Receive His Love, Joy, and Hope this Christmas.

May the Lord Give you His Peace,
Fr Nathanael

ROSARY CENACLE

There will be no rosary cenacle on Monday December 25th Or on Monday January 01. The group will resume on Monday January 08; 7:00pm At St Stephen Church hall in the Marian Room.



Please Note: the parish office will be closed Dec 25—Jan01. We will reopen on January 02.

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

We have a new parish website! We will continue to update it and clean it up. In the mean time feel free to check it out.

<https://stfrancisandstclareparish.ca/>



teers.

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 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 volun-

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.”

Youth GROUP



Christmas Greetings
from the
Youth Group!

SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL

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 Sobey's 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— Our Christmas Project has come to its completion for 2023. Our efforts assisted 63 households, which included 128 adults and 79 children for a cost of \$9,050. None of this work would be possible without the tremendous financial support of our parishioners! THANK YOU!

Blessed Mother Teresa—Donations may be made by placing an envelope marked St. Vincent de Paul Society, BMT in the parish's weekly offertory collections. Please let us know if you would like a receipt. Our conference has purchased \$4,000 of grocery cards from the Atlantic Superstore to assist those seeking our help this Christmas and the cards were distributed by our members on December 11th. We are grateful to all who assist us in reaching out to our neighbours who need a helping hand.

St Theresa—We would like to thank everyone for your continued support of the work of SVdP Society at St Theresa Church. Even in the midst of an unusual collection process this year, we were able to help many people this Christmas season.



An important part of the liturgy is the beauty we strive to display in the decorations in the Church. We adorn the sanctuary with flowers as a symbol of the beauty of creation; a gift God has given us. Once again, the parishioners have outdone themselves in generosity. Flower donations were made in memory of the following:

St Catherine of Siena Church

Ursula Bohlman
Rita & Norm Brousseau
Monica Browne
Bill Camp
Domenico & Maria Colaiacovo
Ella & Bill Conrod
Juliana D'Souza
Michael D'Souza
Anna Falone
Clem & Rita Harris
Michele Marini
Zopito Marini
Kenneth McDonald
June Merlin
"Uncle Frank" Mulrooney & family
Patrick & Geraldine Noddin
Donald and Ann Reardon
Donald Robichaud
Sabatino Sablone
Michael David Scott
St. Faustina Polish Community
Steel family
Emma Tucci

St. Patrick Church

Mason & Reiniger Families
Lois & Frank Beed
Greg Beed
Brian Beed
Gary Doucette
David Sullivan
David & Florence Hatch
Stuart Hatch
Arthur & Kathleen Sullivan
Gerry MacDonald

St. Theresa Church

Duncan & Millie MacLellan
Leo & Loretta Richard
Sarah & Didace Chiasson

St Stephen Church

Rosalie & Arthur Wells
George Scoot
Gerry Clarke
Cloe-Ann Cameron
Skip Collier
Ros & Albert Corkum
Nancy & Gary Sheirs
Heather Antionette Coolen
Chloe Ann Coolen – Cameron
Marie & Harold Phelan
Marion & James MacKintosh
Kathleen Phelan
George & Catherine Phelan
Robert & Clare MacKintosh
George Poole
Leo & Mary Charlton
Cheryl Berrigan
Bud & Shirley Purcell
Marg & Len Purcell
Marjorie & John Scott
Florrie & Bud Ward
Gerald Cotman
Mary & John Chaddock
Charlton & Webb Families
Eileen & James Burke
Mr & Mrs John Scott
Douglas & Dorothy Fillier
Mr & Mrs Karaphillis
MacDonald & Rudge Families
Bernard Kelly



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

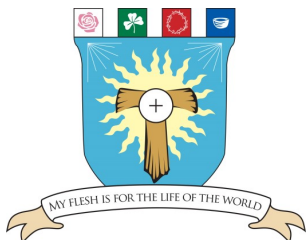
Rev Mr Len Moore
Rev Mr Paul Carnell

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



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!

PLEASE NOTE:

Helmets are mandatory for those 16 years and under. For those who might like to come and just watch the skate, the Centennial Arena has a heated viewing area!

Plan now to bring the whole family and enjoy the day together!!!

Mark your calendars!



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 three churches as well as the parish office during regular business hours.

If you would like to submit an announcement for our bulletin please email us at:

bulletin@stfrancisandstclareparish.ca

Be sure to say if it is for a specific church site.

Announcements must be submitted by Wednesday at noon or it may not make that weeks bulletin.

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