



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

FAITH

March 24, 2024

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

Weekend Mass Schedule for March 23rd / 24th

Saturday 4:00 pm
St. Stephen's Church

Sunday 9:30 am
St. Stephen's Church

Sunday 10:30 am
St. Patrick's Church

Sunday 11:00 am
St. Catherine's Church

Sunday 1:00 pm
St. Catherine's Church
(Polish - English Mass)

Sunday 7:00 pm
St. Catherine's Church

Livestream Mass:

Sunday, March 24, 2024
9:30 am Mass
St. Stephen's Church



PALM SUNDAY
—HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST—

On **Palm Sunday**, we usher in Holy Week with palm branches in hand, remembering the triumphant entry of our Lord into Jerusalem, and the beginning of the week that leads us to the commemoration of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of our Lord – the Paschal Triduum.

On that first Palm Sunday, “A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.” In ancient times, palm branches symbolized goodness and victory. It was common practice in the ancient world to welcome home a king or war hero by laying out a path of branches for him to ride or walk over. With this same purpose, palm was used by the people of Jerusalem to honor Jesus, their King, as he arrived in victory and triumph, but most did not understand what kind of king Jesus would be.

In Jesus' time, military rulers usually road into the cities on horses. Jesus came on a donkey. The donkey was a symbol of peace, and those who rode upon them proclaimed peaceful intentions. This was a sign that he was a leader who would triumph with love and compassion, and not with military might. His was a kingdom that would grow in the hearts of people who put their faith and trust in God.

Even as the coatless multitudes waved the palm branches and shouted for joy, they missed the true reason for Jesus' presence. They could neither see nor understand the cross.

SFSC PARISH LENTEN MISSION

A special Thank YOU to Fr. Dominic for guiding us in

'Finding the Treasure within the Cross'

PARISH MISSION

The three-day mission was a chance for us to journey towards a deeper personal encounter with Christ. It was a wonderful time of prayer, peace, and joy. Thank you, Fr. Dominic. We hope our paths will cross again!

Weekday Mass Schedule

Wednesday, 7:00 am
St. Catherine's Church

Thank you for giving from the heart to Share Lent 2024!

Development and Peace — Caritas Canada thanks you for supporting the **'Reaping our Rights'** campaign with your Share Lent donation. Your donations will help support our sisters and brothers in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Middle East. Thank you for continuing to pray for all those who are working to build a world of peace and justice. To donate, visit: devp.org/give.



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Wednesday, March 27th
Eucharistic Adoration
8:00 am—4:00 pm
St. Catherine's Church

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Friday, March 22nd

3:30 pm in
St. Catherine's Church

6:30 pm in
St. Catherine's Church
(Polish Community)

7:00 pm in
St. Stephen's Church

SSVP

Food Assistance

St Catherine's
902-455-6525

St Patrick's
902-405-3806

St Stephen's
902-405-3686

St Theresa's
902-414-4625

Holy Week Schedule



PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY - Saturday/Sunday, March 23rd & 24th

Regular Mass schedule at each location **EXCEPT FOR ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH.** St. Patrick's will celebrate Mass at 10:30 am on Palm Sunday to allow parishioners to take part in the Palm Sunday Ecumenical Procession. Everyone is invited to gather at St George's at 9:15 am where the palm will be distributed and blessed. Then, all will go outside to bless the donkey. From St. George's, the procession will proceed to St. Patrick's, the Little Dutch Church, New Horizons and finally to Brunswick Street United.

CHRISM MASS - Tuesday, March 26th

Archbishop Brian Dunn invites all the faithful to join him at St. Mary's Cathedral Basilica for 12:00 noon Mass. (Please note, the 12:00 noon Mass at St. Catherine's Church is cancelled on this day.)

HOLY THURSDAY - March 28th *Bring your Bells!*

7:00 pm - St. Stephen's Church

7:00 pm - St. Catherine's Church (Polish Community)

GOOD FRIDAY - March 29th

3:00 pm - St. Catherine's Church, St. Patrick's Church, St. Stephen's Church

6:00 pm - St. Catherine's Church (Polish Community)

7:00 pm - Stations of the Cross - St. Stephen's Church

HOLY SATURDAY - March 30th

4:00 pm - Blessing of the Food - St. Catherine's Church (Polish Community)

EASTER VIGIL - Saturday, March 30th *Bring your Bells!*

8:00 pm - St. Catherine's Church

(Please note, there will be NO 4:00 pm Mass at St. Stephen's Church.)

EASTER SUNDAY - March 31st

7:30 am - St. Catherine's Church (Polish Community)

Regular Sunday morning Mass Schedule at each Church location. (Please note, there will be NO 7:00 pm Mass at St. Catherine's Church.)

EASTER MONDAY - April 1st

7:00 pm - St. Catherine's Church (Polish Community)

DONATIONS FOR EASTER FLOWERS



We are accepting donations for the purchase of Easter 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 Easter Sunday Parish bulletin. Thank you!

CHRISM MASS: TUESDAY, MARCH 26TH

This year's Chrism Mass will take place on Tuesday, March 26th, at Saint Mary's Cathedral Basilica at 12:00 noon. The Chrism Mass is celebrated by Catholics around the world during Holy Week. This celebration highlights the connection of the local bishop with the people of God through his presbyters (priests). At this special Mass two key events take place: all priests renew their promises to serve the people of God and the bishop blesses the holy oils (the Oil of the sick, the Oil of Catechumen, and the Oil of Chrism) to be used in the various sacraments for the coming year. Gathering with the priests, blessing these oils, and sending out these oils from this Mass to the various faith communities across our Diocese emphasizes the unity of all the faithful (ordained and lay) in our Diocese under the leadership of our Archbishop.



WASHING OF THE FEET – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Parish will be celebrating Holy Thursday at St. Stephen's Church on March 28th at 7:00 pm Mass. We would appreciate the involvement of parishioners from throughout the Parish to assist us with the Washing of the Feet ceremony that takes place within the Mass. Would those parishioners willing to participate, please call the Parish Office (902-454-8221) or email officestfstc@gmail.com. Please leave your name, phone number and email address. Thank you!



BELL RINGING ON HOLY THURSDAY AND AT THE EASTER VIGIL

On Holy Thursday, parishioners are invited to bring bells from home, to be rung during the singing of the "Gloria". The bells then remain silent until the Easter Vigil at which time they can ring again.



On Good Friday, March 29th, there will be a **DIOCESAN COLLECTION FOR THE HOLY LANDS**. This collection has been designated by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops to support Pope Francis' work in the Holy Lands.

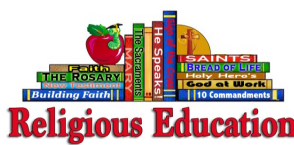
DIVINE MERCY NOVENA AND CHAPLET

St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi Parish is celebrating Divine Mercy Sunday on Sunday, April 7th, from 2:30-4:00 pm at St. Catherine's Church. This time of adoration will include the Litany of Trust and the Divine Mercy Chaplet. All parishioners are invited to attend.



Between 1930 and 1938 Christ appeared to Sister Faustina, a Sister of Mercy in Poland, who initiated the Divine Mercy devotion. On Good Friday, 1937, Jesus requested that Blessed Faustina make a special Novena before the Feast of Mercy, from Good Friday through the following Saturday. He gave her a chaplet to be recited and said that it was appropriate to pray the chaplet at three o'clock each afternoon (the Hour of Great Mercy). She was canonized on April 30, 2000, the Sunday after Easter, the Feast of Divine Mercy. For information on how to recite the Chaplet, visit: [Divine Mercy Chaplet](#)

HOPE



GRADES PRIMARY TO SIX)

This Sunday, March 24th, classes will take place for students enrolled in our Parish program.

St. Catherine's classes—10:00-10:45 am
St. Stephen's classes— following 9:30 am Mass



Youth group meets Wednesday evenings from 7:00—8:30 pm in St. Stephen's Church Hall. For more information about Youth Group or to

register, please contact Anna Irish (annamichelleirish@gmail.com).

LOVE IN ACTION

ST. FRANCIS AND ST. CLARE OF ASSISI PARISH

Spring Fair

SATURDAY, APRIL 20TH 10 AM - 1 PM

SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY, APRIL 20 FROM 10 AM - 1 PM

This year, our Parish SPRING FAIR is fundraising for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and the affordable housing project they are building on Brunswick St. All proceeds will go towards supporting the new tenants to set up their homes.

Hosted at St. Catherine's Church Hall - FREE ADMISSION

Hot Food will be served from the Kitchen and there will be a 50/50 draw, Gift Basket Raffles and a Silent Auction. PLUS New-to-You, Crafts, Baked Goods, Games, Face Painting and more! Follow us on Facebook for event updates and ways you can be involved: <https://www.facebook.com/StFrancisandStClareofAssisiParish/events>

FOLLOW US ON



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MEET OUR TEAM

Fr. Nathanael DesRoches
Administrator

Fr. Robert Nicholas
Associate Pastor

Rev. Mr Paul Carnell

Brent Hopkins
Operations Manager

Sr. Rita Hanna, FoH

Cheryl Delaney
Administrative Assistant
admstfsc@gmail.com



HOPE COTTAGE

St Patrick's Meals for Hope Cottage

Many Churches in our Diocese support Hope Cottage's meals service by having members volunteer to purchase, cook and deliver meals to Hope Cottage. Groups serving

for St. Patrick's are:

March 25th

April 11th

May 6th

Group 3: Mike Convey

Group 1: Diane Sullivan

Group 2: Nancy Bliss

PARISH NEWS

Last Saturday, the **St. Patrick's Social and Lunch** took place in their Church Hall. Over 120 people, of all ages, were in attendance! Congratulations to all those who were involved in the preparation for this event. A good time was had by all!

'Erin go bragh' (Ireland forever)



March 24th at 2:00 pm—Halifax Concert Band— The Annual Celtic Concert will take place at St. Patrick's Church.

STEWARDSHIP

Options for Giving to our Parish

1. Request weekly Sunday envelopes through our Parish Office.
2. E-Transfer to officestfsc@gmail.com (include your name, designation for your gift, and church).
3. Sign up for pre-authorized payments through our Parish Office.
4. Mail your donation to our Parish Office.



Please be assured that any donations received will be assigned to your account and income tax receipts will be issued. Thank you for your continued generosity! Please contact the Parish Office for more information.

PARISH OFFICE - WALK-IN HOURS: MON/WED/FRI 9:00 AM TO 12:00 NOON

Email officestfsc@gmail.com

Parish Office: 902-454-8221

Address: 6351 North Street, Halifax, B3L 1P7

Website: <https://www.stfrancisandstclareparish.ca>

