



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

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday 4:00 pm
St. Stephen's Church

Sunday 9:30 am
St. Stephen's Church

Sunday 9:30 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

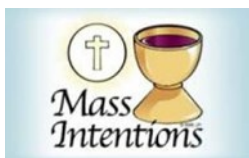
Livestream Mass:

Sunday, April 14, 2024
9:30 am Mass
St. Stephen's Church

Weekday Mass Schedule

Tuesday—Friday, 7:00 am
Tuesday—12:00 Noon
Saturday—9:00 am
St. Catherine's Church

Friday—9:00 am
St. Stephen's Church



Tuesday, April 16th
Emily Butler +
12:00 Noon St. Catherine's

Friday, April 19th
Ron Cromwell +
9:00 am St. Stephen's

Saturday, April 20th
Bob Lantz +
9:00 am St. Catherine's

Theresa MacKinnon +
4:00 pm St. Stephen's

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER—April 14, 2024

ARCHBISHOP DUNN'S VISIT TO SFSC

Dear Brothers and Sisters.

In talking with Archbishop Brian, he wants to come to listen to you about the recommendations of closures sooner than later. He has given me these dates to celebrate Mass with us and to stay after as long as needed to hear you all.

20th April @ 4:00pm (Saturday) Mass St. Stephen's and
21st April @ 9:30am (Sunday) Mass St. Patrick's

Please pass these dates through word of mouth and continue to pray for Christ's healing presence and peace for all of us.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Nathanael

FAITH

THE EASTER VIGIL - CONGRATULATIONS STEPHEN!

According to the Roman Missal, the Easter Vigil is the "greatest and most noble of all solemnities". On this holy night, the Church kept watch, celebrating the resurrection of Christ in the sacraments and awaiting his return in glory. It is the turning point of the Triduum, the Passover of the new covenant, which marks Christ's passage from death to life. The Easter Vigil has four parts: the Service of Light, the Liturgy of the Word, the Liturgy of Baptism, and the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

During the Liturgy of Baptism on March 30th, parishioners were able to celebrate the Baptism and Confirmation of our newest member, Stephen Moses. Welcome Stephen into our Christian family!



PASCHAL OR EASTER CANDLE

Throughout the Easter Season, the Paschal Candle will remain by the Ambo where the Word of God is proclaimed. This special candle is lit with fire that is blessed by the Priest at the Easter Vigil during the Service of Light. By lighting this special candle at Easter time, we remember that Jesus Christ rose from the dead. He is truly the "Light of the World".



(continued. . .)

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

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

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

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

CONFESSION TIMES

First Wednesday of the month, 7:00 pm (includes a Holy Hour)
St. Stephen's Church

Thursdays, 7:30 pm (includes a Holy Hour)
St. Catherine's Church

Saturdays, following the 9:00 am Mass
St. Catherine's Church

Saturdays, 3:00-3:45 pm
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

The Paschal Candle always has a cross on it, representing the "paschal" mystery of our faith. The Paschal Mystery is one of the central concepts of our Catholic faith - the history of our salvation through the passion, death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Greek Symbols of Alpha "Α" and Omega "Ω" are the first and last letters in the Greek Alphabet. In English, Alpha means "beginning" and Omega means "end". These symbols remind us that God has no beginning and no end as He has always existed. As the Paschal Candle is blessed at the Easter Vigil, the Priest places five pegs containing five grains of incense on the candle. These remind us of the five wounds that Jesus suffered as He was put to death. One in each hand, one in each foot, and one in his side when he was pierced by a spear as he hung on the cross. From this wound came blood and water. We also see on the candle the current year, 2024, to remind us that God is present with us NOW!



When we celebrate a Baptism at Church, the candle that is given to the parents and godparents as a remembrance of the Baptism, is lit from the Paschal Candle. Just as Jesus Christ is the light of the world, we too, because of our Baptism are called to be light to others. Let your light shine!

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA—A SPECIAL CELEBRATION!

On Sunday, April 28th, at St. Catherine's 11:00 am Mass, we will celebrate two special events in the life of the SFSC Parish family.



First, we will celebrate the Sacrament of First Communion for nine students enrolled in the program at St. Catherine's. We ask for your prayers for our candidates who have been preparing for this special day – Andrei, Colton, Harin, James, Joseph, Julie, Natalie, Rio, and Sophie.

As the Feast of St. Catherine of Siena is the next day, on April 29th, we will take this opportunity in gathering to celebrate her patroness of one of the churches within the Parish.

A reception will take place following this special Mass to honor our First Communicants, and to celebrate all the blessings that St. Catherine of Siena has poured upon us. All parishioners are encouraged to attend.



“Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire.”

– St. Catherine of Siena

CONSCIENCE PROTECTION FOR NOVA SCOTIA DOCTORS

Imagine a healthcare system where death is considered a therapeutic treatment. *Imagine being a Christian doctor in that system.* Imagine being told by your medical regulator that you are abandoning your patient if you don't make arrangements for them to get an assessment for euthanasia. That healthcare system is in Nova Scotia today.

When they are at their most vulnerable, people may choose euthanasia if they don't have suitable options to live. We need physicians who will go the extra mile to ensure their patients are connected with the supports and services they need.

What can you do? Write the Nova Scotia regulator today to tell them you want this policy to be changed: <https://bit.ly/NSRegulator24>

As part of our response, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy will be prayed on Wednesdays and Fridays during Adoration at 3:00 pm (St. Catherine's) for this special intention.

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord God of peace, hear our prayer!

We have tried so many times and over so many years to resolve our conflicts by our own powers and by the force of our arms. How many moments of hostility and darkness have we experienced; how much blood has been shed; how many lives have been shattered; how many hopes have been buried... But our efforts have been in vain.



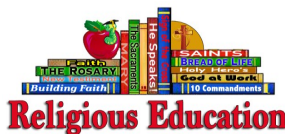
Now, Lord, come to our aid! Grant us peace, teach us peace; guide our steps in the way of peace. Open our eyes and our hearts, and give us the courage to say: "Never again war!"; "With war everything is lost". Instill in our hearts the courage to take concrete steps to achieve peace.

Lord, God of Abraham, God of the Prophets, God of Love, you created us and you call us to live as brothers and sisters. Give us the strength daily to be instruments of peace; enable us to see everyone who crosses our path as our brother or sister. Make us sensitive to the plea of our citizens who entreat us to turn our weapons of war into implements of peace, our trepidation into confident trust, and our quarreling into forgiveness.

Keep alive within us the flame of hope, so that with patience and perseverance we may opt for dialogue and reconciliation. In this way may peace triumph at last, and may the words "division", "hatred" and "war" be banished from the heart of every man and woman. Lord, defuse the violence of our tongues and our hands. Renew our hearts and minds, so that the word which always brings us together will be "brother", and our way of life will always be that of: Shalom, Peace, Salaam!

Amen.

HOPE



the 11:00 am Mass at St. Catherine's.

GRADES PRIMARY TO SIX

This Sunday, April 14th, Children's Liturgies will be celebrated at the 9:30 am Mass at St. Stephen's and



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).

FIRST RECONCILIATION CELEBRATED

As mentioned in last week's bulletin, students from St. Stephen's and St. Patrick's celebrated their First Reconciliation on April 6th. Congratulations to Arthur, Momore, Rafaella, Renata, and Sebastian.



LOVE IN ACTION

COLLECTION FOR ANNUAL MOTHER'S DAY LUNCHEON NORTH END PARENT RESOURCE CENTRE



The North End Parent Resource Centre is planning for their annual Mother's Day Luncheon for the mothers of the neighbourhood. The luncheon will take place on Saturday, May 11th. St. Patrick's community supports this annual event through donations of funds to help with the luncheon and personal items for gift bags for the mothers. All members of the parish community are welcome to support this annual event.

Donations of money and personal items will be received until Sunday, May 5th.

Please place your money donation in an envelope marked Parent Resource Centre Mother's Day Event and place in the collection basket. Please place personal items in the marked basket at the back of the church. Suggested donations for gift bags: hand lotion, soap, shampoo, body wash, lip balm, sweets.

Thank you for your continued support of this special event for the mothers of our neighbourhood. For further information, please see Michele O'Neill or Colleen Doucette.

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
admstfstc@gmail.com

Sara Hutt
Administrative Assistant
officestfstc@gmail.com

ONE WEEK TO GO!!!

SPRING FAIR DONATIONS GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED

at St. Catherine's Church Hall (use parking lot door) on Friday, April 19th, from 12:00 noon to 8:00 pm.

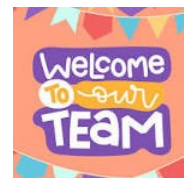
This is a great time to do some Spring cleaning and donate gently used items to the **New-to-You table** (no clothing)!

Calling all Bakers! Why not bake an item or two for our Baked Goods Table. (Please include you name and phone number with your baked goods. These are only for our records and will not appear on the goods for sale.) Thank you for your support! We hope to see you at the Fair on April 20th!!!

PARISH NEWS

A warm WELCOME to Sara Hutt who has joined the Parish Staff as an Administrative Assistant. Sara, we hope you will enjoy your time with us!

Sara joins Cheryl Delaney in the office! We thank them both for their service to us!



TAX TIME - The Canada Revenue Agency provides Canadians with a network of CVITP tax volunteers in communities throughout Canada. CVITP volunteers prepare income tax and benefit returns for eligible individuals with modest income, a simple tax situation, and who are not able to prepare and file their return themselves.

If you would like to have your taxes prepared, please call the St. Catherine's Society of St. Vincent de Paul phone number (902-455-6525) and leave a message. You are asked to clearly state your name and phone number while indicating that this message is for this free tax service. A representative will then be in touch with you.

STEWARDSHIP



MAXIMIZING GOD'S BLESSINGS FOR HIS GLORY

Anyone wishing to submit announcements for the bulletin is asked to send them to officestfstc@gmail.com by 9:00 am each Wednesday morning. Thanks!

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

Email officestfstc@gmail.com
Parish Office: 902-454-8221

Address: 6351 North Street, Halifax, B3L 1P7

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

