

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 Church
(Cancelled on Holy Saturday)

Sunday 9:30 am
St. Stephen Church

Sunday 11:00 am
St. Catherine Church

St. Faustina Polish Mission

Sunday 1:00 pm
(7:30 am on Easter Sunday)
St. Catherine Church

Sunday 7:00 pm
St. Catherine Church
(Cancelled on Easter Sunday)

Livestream:

Good Friday, April 3rd
Sunday, April 5th

Weekday Mass Schedule

Tuesday, 9:00 am
St. Catherine Church

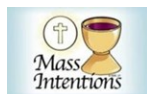
Wednesday, 9:00 am
St. Catherine Church

Thursday, 9:00 am
St. Stephen Church

Friday, 7:30 am
St. Catherine Church

Friday, 9:00 am
St. Stephen Church

Saturday, 9:00 am
St. Catherine Church
(Franciscan Mass)



Tuesday, April 7th
Al MacDougall

Wednesday, April 8th
Francis MacDonald

Thursday, April 9th
Terry Sayer

Friday, April 10th
Teresa Walsh

Saturday, April 11th
9:00 am - Stanley &
Jeanette Pettipas
4:00 pm - Mary & John
Chaddock

THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

FAITH

April 5, 2026

Christ is Risen. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

At last, after preparing during the six weeks of Lent, we can now celebrate the joyous feast of Easter, the heart of our Christian faith. Our faith flows from our belief in the Resurrection. Christ's victory over sin and death means new life for us all. Easter is the proof of God's love for humanity and our assurance that God wants all of us to be raised up after our own death and to live with him forever.



We understand Easter as the passage from old to new; from darkness to light; and from suffering to joy. It is such a hope-filled and life-giving feast that we, the Church, celebrate Easter for not merely one day, but for an entire 50-day season. Let us be open to the Graces our Risen Lord wants to shower upon us. God impinges upon our reality, real life, never forcing Himself, but inviting us to a deeper communion with Him.

Let us not miss this opportunity to enjoy, celebrate, and be inspired by all the beautiful symbols, messages, and Graces the Easter season offers us. And let us share all these encounters with one other.

Blessed Easter to you all,
Fr. Peter & Fr. Nathanael

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".

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 - our salvation through the passion, death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. For 2026, the Cross of St. Francis has been chosen for the Paschal Candle that will be blessed at the Easter Vigil. This is truly fitting as it is the Franciscan Jubilee Year, and we have the great honor of having the Franciscans of Halifax within our midst.



(continued on next page)

**Northwood -
Halifax Campus**

Mass is celebrated on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 10:15 am.

Berkeley Gladstone

Mass is celebrated on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 10:00 am.

**Adoration of the
Blessed Sacrament**

Wednesdays - following the 9:00 am Mass to 4:00 pm.
Fridays - 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.
St. Catherine of Siena Church

**Adoration of the
Blessed Sacrament
with Confession**

Thursdays 7:30 pm
Franciscan Holy Hour of
Eucharistic Adoration,
Confession available.
St. Catherine of Siena Church

Confession Times

Saturdays, following the 9:00 am Mass
St. Catherine of Siena Church

Saturdays, 3:00-3:45 pm
St. Stephen Church

Pray the Rosary

Saturday 3:00 - 3:45 pm
Monday 7:15 - 8:00 pm
St. Stephen Church

Sunday 6:20 - 6:45 pm
St. Catherine of Siena 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

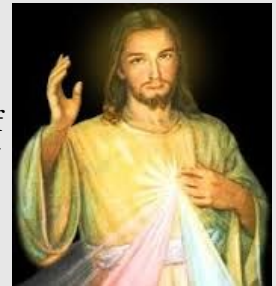
The Greek Symbols of Alpha "A" and Omega "Ω" are the first and last letters in the Greek Alphabet. In English, Alpha means "beginning" and Omega means "end". These symbols remind us that God has no beginning and no end as He has always existed.

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 will also see on the candle the current year, 2026, 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!

DIVINE MERCY NOVENA AND CHAPLET

St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi Parish is celebrating Divine Mercy Sunday on Sunday, April 12th, from 2:30-4:00 pm at St. Catherine of Siena Church. This time of silent adoration will include the praying of the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3:00 pm. All parishioners are invited to attend.



Between 1930 and 1938 Christ appeared to Sister Faustina, 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](#)



ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA CHURCH NEEDS MORE VOLUNTEERS FOR COMMUNION MINISTRY

Bringing Holy Communion to those who are ill, shut-in or unable to attend Mass is a great gift to those who have served the church for many years, especially our elderly. St. Catherine of Siena Church needs additional volunteers to make these visits. Your commitment would be for one Sunday a month following Sunday morning Mass. If you feel you may be called to this ministry, please contact the Parish Office at officestfstc@gmail.com or by telephone at 902-454-8221 and leave your contact information.

PARISH YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY!

The next meeting of our Young Adult Ministry group will take place on Friday, April 10th, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm in St. Stephen Church Hall. The group meets every second Friday evening, and their last meeting will be on May 8th. This ministry is open to all young adults ages 18 to 40 who are seeking to deepen their relationship with Christ. If you have any questions, please contact Haley Bishop at faithformationsfsc@gmail.com or 902-454-8221.



POPE LEO'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR APRIL 2026: 'FOR PRIESTS IN CRISIS'

Pope Leo XIV has urged Catholics across the globe to join him in April in praying for priests in crisis. In his prayer, the Pope entrusted all priests into the Father's hands, especially those going through moments of crisis, "when loneliness weighs heavily, when doubt clouds their hearts, and when exhaustion seems stronger than hope." "May they never lose trust in You," he concluded, "nor the joy of serving your Church with a humble and generous heart."

**DONATIONS FOR EASTER FLOWERS WERE
GRATEFULLY RECEIVED IN MEMORY OF:**

Michael Ahern
 Bill Archibald
 Agnes Asprey
 Cheryl Berrigan
 Wendy Bland
 Ursula Bohlman
 David & Bernie Boudreau
 Joseph & Edna Boudreau
 Jean & Judy Bourgeois
 Gaston Brisson
 Rita & Norm Brousseau
 Monica Browne
 Gregory Burgess
 Chloe Ann Coolen Cameron
 Bill Camp
 Gordon Camp
 Jerry Campbell
 Clifford Chace
 Mary & John Chaddock
 Leo & Mary Charlton
 Gerry Clarke
 Skip Collier
 Basil & Louise Connolly
 Lola & James Cook
 Heather Antionette Coolen
 Rose & Albert Corkum
 Gerald Cotnam
 Ronald & Alice Crummell
 Diane DeBay

David Doucette
 Gary Doucette
 Tom Doucette
 Veronica Doucette
 Elizabeth D'Souza (Living)
 Juliana D'Souza
 Michael D'Souza
 Clark Matthews Duffett
 Henry, Sr. & Kathleen Duffett
 Anna Falone
 Dorothy & Douglas Fillier
 Donald Forbes
 John & Mary Forbes
 Mary & Frank Fredericks
 Richard Gallagher
 Clem & Rita Harris
 Rosie Jenkins
 George Karaphillis' parents
 MacDonald & Rudge families
 Clare & Robert MacKintosh
 Marion & James MacKintosh
 Harry & Jessie Mara
 Michele Marini
 Zopito Marini
 Edward & Jennie Mason
 Gerald & Marie Mason
 Peter & James McQuigan
 Jacqueline Merlin
 June Merlin

Mulrooney Family
 Policarpo Muñoz
 Patrick & Geraldine Noddin
 George & Catherine Phelan
 Harold & Marie Phelan
 Kathleen Phelan
 George Poole
 Marg & Len Purcell
 Shirley & Bud Purcell
 Agnes & Phil Reiniger
 Betty Rudge
 Lina Sablone
 Sabatino Sablone
 Vincenzo Sablone
 St. Faustina Polish Mission
 Duncan & Marion Scott
 Elizabeth & Angus Scott
 George David Scott
 Marjorie & John Scott
 Pamela Scott
 Nancy & Gary Shields
 Frank Sullivan, Jr.
 Eva & Ernest Thorne
 Emma Tucci
 Gloria Mara Walker
 Florence & Gerard Ward
 Florrie & Budd Ward
 Webb & Charlton families
 Rosalie & Arthur Wells
 Owen James Wrathall

HOPE



**ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA'S
ELEMENTARY PROGRAM
(PRIMARY TO SIX)**

This Sunday, April 5th, we will all be enjoying Easter Sunday so we will take a holiday from activities. Next Sunday, April 12th, classes will take place from 10:00 - 10:45 am in the Church Hall. For more information on the program, please contact Donna Noddin (donna.noddin@gmail.com).



**ST. STEPHEN'S
ELEMENTARY PROGRAM
(PRIMARY TO SIX)**

This Sunday, April 5th, there will be no activities as we celebrate the great feast of Easter! The program will resume on Sunday, April 12th. For more information on the program, please contact Haley Bishop (faithformationsfsc@gmail.com).



Youth Group, for Junior High and High School Students, meets on Wednesday evenings, from 7:00 - 8:30 pm in St. Catherine of Siena Church Hall. For more information or to register, contact Haley Bishop (faithformationsfsc@gmail.com).



**We invite grade primary to six students to join us on:
Friday, April 17th, from 6:00 - 8:00 pm
in St. Catherine of Siena Church Hall for an EASTER PARTY**



We will have a video on the power of the Resurrection. There will also be Easter crafts, treats, and lots of fun! As always, we will have the ping pong tables set up, and all the board games available to be played. It's a great opportunity to be together!

**Parish
Leadership Team**

Claudette Carroll
Jim Evans
Jaison Joseph

FOLLOW US ON



[Facebook](#)



[@sfscparish](#)

MEET OUR TEAM

Fr. Nathanael DesRoches, FoH
Administrator

Fr. Peter Hanna, FoH
Associate Pastor

Rev. Mr Paul Carnell
Rev. Mr. Bernie Coffin
(Retired)

Rev. Mr. Gérald LeBlanc
(Retired)

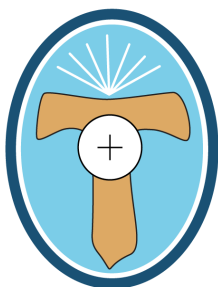
Rev. Br. Grant McLean, FoH

Sr. Rita Hanna, FoH

Anne James
Operations Coordinator

Haley Bishop
Faith Formation Coordinator
faithformationsfsc@gmail.com

Elizabeth Clark
Administrative Assistant
officestfstc@gmail.com



LOVE IN ACTION

NEW COLLECTION ENVELOPES FOR THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

We are pleased to inform parishioners that we have NEW Offering Envelopes for the Society at the back of both churches. These envelopes allow you to indicate the Conference within the Parish (St. Catherine of Siena, St. Patrick, St. Stephen and St. Theresa) that is the intention of your donation. You can simply tick the box indicating the Conference. On behalf of those we serve, THANK YOU!



TAX TIME - We have a Canada Revenue Agency tax volunteer in our community who can 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. Our CVITP volunteer is offering to do tax returns by phone until April 30th to those within our community. 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.

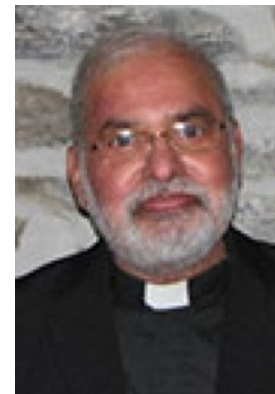
DIOCESAN NEWS

REST IN PEACE: FR. THOMAS TEKKEKARA

The Archdiocese received word that Fr. Thomas Thekkekara died on Tuesday, March 24, 2026, at the age of 90 years at home in Kaloor, Kerala, India.

Fr. Thomas was ordained on March 10, 1963, in his home Diocese of Kothamangalam, Kerala, and joined the Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth in 1987. He served at several parishes for 21 years as a Pastor and Chaplain of the hospitals and retired from active pastoral ministry in 2008. He returned to India in October 2025.

His funeral mass was celebrated on March 26, 2026, at St. John the Baptist Church, Kaloor, Thodupuzha, India, followed by burial in the church cemetery.



STEWARDSHIP

Options for Giving to our Parish

1. Sign up for pre-authorized debit (PAD) on our website or by contacting the Parish office.
2. E-transfer by sending donations to officestfstc@gmail.com (include name, designation of your gift and church).
3. CanadaHelps.org - a secure third-party method to make a one time donation and/or to set-up monthly donations by credit card (see our website).
4. Request weekly Sunday envelopes through our Parish Office.

The options for giving are available on our website at <https://www.sfscparish.ca/donate>.



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.

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 HOURS:
MONDAY - CLOSED; TUESDAY TO FRIDAY - 9:00 AM TO 1:00 PM

Email officestfstc@gmail.com
Parish Office: 902-454-8221
Address: 6032 Normandy Drive, Halifax, NS B3K 2S9

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