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 Masses

Saturday 4:00 pm
St. Stephen Church
Sunday 9:30 am
St. Stephen Church
Sunday 11:00 am
St. Catherine Church
Sunday 1:00 pm
St. Faustina Polish Mission
St. Catherine Church
Sunday 7:00 pm
St. Catherine Church
Livestream:
Sunday Nov 29

Weekday Masses

Tuesday 9:00 am
St. Stephen Church
Wednesday 9:00 am
St. Stephen 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
Franciscan Mass
St. Catherine Church

Mass Intentions



Tuesday, Dec 1
Wally Archibald
Wednesday, Dec 2
Fr. Roberto Donato
Thursday, Dec 3
Daryl Boudreau
Friday, Dec 4
Doug Murchie
Saturday, Dec 5
9am - Clarence Flemming
Clayton Wilkins
4pm - All Souls in Purgatory

First Sunday of Advent
Sunday, November 29, 2026

Advent Backpack Program

Our Advent Back-Pack program is well underway, and some of the filled grocery bags are already being returned. **Please return your grocery bag of items to either church before Thursday, December 17.**

On December 19th we will sort all items and fill the 125 backpacks with the gifts of gloves, hats, socks, toothpaste, shampoo, and other personal items that our good parishioners and others have provided. The backpacks will be given as Christmas presents to the patrons of Our Daily Bread, a charity outreach from St. Mary's Cathedral Basilica that provides meals five days a week for those in need in our community. Grocery bags with donation lists are available at the entrance of both churches for those still wishing to participate in this very worthwhile project.

Our "Sort Day" is Saturday, December 19th at 10:00 a.m. in St. Stephen Church hall, where youth and families are invited to come, sort the items, and then fill the backpacks. Tea, coffee, soft drinks and snacks will be provided. We look forward to seeing you, and thank you for your generous support of this Advent project.

If you have questions or would like to help on sort day, please reach out to the church representative listed on the donation sheet enclosed in the grocery bag.

A Special Celebration of Hope and Light
Tuesday, December 1, 7:00 pm at St. Catherine of Siena Church

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." — John 1:5

The Advent and Christmas seasons are filled with joy, celebration, and bright lights. Yet, for many, they can also bring a deep sense of absence, grief, or heaviness. Whether you are grieving the loss of a loved one, facing illness yourself or that of a loved one, navigating a difficult transition in your life, or finding it hard to feel the joy of the season, you do not have to carry your burden alone.

You are warmly invited to a quiet, reflective Mass of comfort and remembrance on Tuesday, December 1st at 7:00 pm in St. Catherine of Siena Church. Together, we will bring our sorrow, our struggles, and our weary hearts to Emmanuel - *God with us* - who walks beside us in every dark and quiet place.

All are welcome. As a family of faith, we are called to rejoice together, but also to weep together and carry each other in prayer. We hope you will join us!



Northwood Halifax

10:15 am
Second Wednesday of every month

Berkeley Gladstone

10:00 am
Fourth Wednesday of every month

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Wednesdays
after 9:00am Mass to 4:00pm
St. Stephen Church

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with Confession
Thursdays 7:30pm
(*Franciscan Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration. Confession available*)
St. Catherine of Siena Church

Confession Times
Saturdays
after 9:00am Mass
St. Catherine of Siena Church

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

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

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

Society of St. Vincent de Paul
Food Assistance

St. Catherine
902-455-6525

St. Patrick
902-405-3806

St. Stephen
902-405-3686

St. Theresa
902-414-4625



St. Vincent de Paul Societies at our Parish

St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi Parish has four conferences of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul who work tirelessly to help those in need. Christmas has been a special time for reaching out to those we serve by each of the Conferences.

Here's how you can help!

St. Catherine's Conference - The Christmas Angel Tree is in the Sanctuary this weekend. On the tree will be envelopes that will allow parishioners to make a monetary donation to this project. Those we serve will receive a gift card to buy everything needed for a Christmas meal, and gift cards are given to children 16 years and under, to allow parents to buy gifts for under the tree. You can put your donation in the collection basket at any Sunday Mass, or e-transfer to officestfstc@gmail.com (please indicate your gift is for St. Catherine's Conference of SSVP-Christmas Project).

St. Catherine's SSVP will be selling tickets on a Christmas Basket (Value: $250) at weekend Masses. Tickets will be 1 for $2, 3 for $5, and 10 for $10 (cash only). Draw date is December 13th.

Basket Raffle FUNDRAISER

St. Patrick's Conference - The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul would like to remind parishioners that the Conference's work continues. Your donations will be used to provide families support for food and gifts for their children this Christmas. Thank you for your support.

There are a number of ways to make donations this year:

- address an envelope to St. Patrick's SSVP Conference (with your name and address) and drop it in the collection basket at any Parish Mass, deliver it to the Parish Office at 6032 Normandy Drive, or
- by e-transfer to ssvp.stpatricks@gmail.com.

Blessed Mother Teresa's Conference at St. Stephen - Our Conference is grateful for the continuous support of our parishioners, and we would like to remind all that our annual lottery for a beautiful Christmas Basket is being held after all weekend Masses from November 28th until December 13th. Don't forget your cash!

Basket Raffle FUNDRAISER

St. Theresa's Conference - The St. Vincent de Paul Conference of St. Theresa's continues to respond to calls for help from people living in the area bounded by Quinpool, Elm/Connolly, Almon and Robie streets (former parish boundaries). We would like to ask for donations of Superstore or Sobeys gift cards so that that those who sought assistance in the last few months can pick up Christmas groceries. There are envelopes at the back of St. Catherine and St. Stephen churches for each of the St. Vincent de Paul Conferences, and you can place your gift card in one of these and indicate St. Theresa's OR fill in a blank envelope with your name and address. We thank you on behalf of those who will be able to have some extra food at Christmas.

Women's Advent Evening of Reflection: Prepare Him Room

Prepare your heart for the coming of Christ through the eyes of His Mother. All women are invited to an Evening of Reflection with Our Lady
on Wednesday, December 16 6:30-8:00pm at St. Stephen Church

Together, we will explore how Mary's quiet 'Yes' to God can inspire our own faith journeys and our humble 'Yes' as well. The evening will feature scripture reflections, quiet prayer/contemplation, and fellowship.

Light refreshments will be served following the service
There is no cost to attend, but a small snack to share would be most welcome and appreciated.



For more information, contact Maria McDonald: faithformationsfsc@gmail.com

Faith Formation at St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi Parish

Religious Education
St. Catherine of Siena Church

This Sunday, November 29th, classes will take place from 10:00-10:45 am in the Church Hall. Please enter from the parking lot. Next Sunday, December 6th, we will celebrate a Children's Liturgy during the 11:00 am Mass.

For more information on the program, please contact Donna Noddin: donna.noddin@gmail.com.

Family Faith Formation (Gr. P-6)
St. Stephen Church

Please join us for the next Primary-Gr. 6 Family Faith Formation classes on Sunday, Dec 6th following the 9:30am Mass. The children will go to their classes and the parents will meet for a video presentation and discussion. Our Family Faith Formation Christmas Party will be on Sun, Dec 13th - please mark your calendars! Please Contact Maria McDonald: faithformationsfsc@gmail.com with any questions.

Grade 2 Sacrament of Reconciliation

The Sacrament of Reconciliation was celebrated by the following students and their families on Saturday, November 28 at St. Stephen Church. Please keep these children and their families in your prayers as they prepare for the sacrament of First Holy Communion in May 2027.

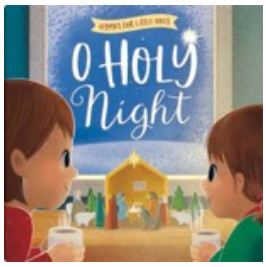


Our sincere Congratulations to:
Juniper Boyd, Bethel Kamran, Hosanna Kamran, Gianna Llamanzares, Jose Miguel Guena Preciado



St. Francis & St. Clare of Assisi
Youth Group (Gr. 7-12) at St. Catherine Church

Our next Youth Group meeting will be on **Wednesday, Dec 9 from 7:00-8:30pm**, and it will be our ***Christmas Party!*** Lots of fun & activities planned as we prepare our hearts for Christmas. **See you then!** For more information, contact Maria McDonald: faithformationsfsc@gmail.com



'O Holy Night'

Grade Primary to Six students throughout the Parish are invited to our Special Christmas Gathering on:

Friday, December 11th, from 6:00 – 8:00 pm
St. Catherine of Siena Church Hall

We will start the evening by enjoying supper together – YES, we are having pizza! We will then enjoy a movie on the Christmas Story. Then, we will learn about and decorate the Jesse Tree. As always, we will have the ping pong tables set up, and all the board games available to be played. We now have MINI HOCKEY nets so bring your mini sticks! It's a great opportunity to be together!

OCIA: Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

Our next meeting is Monday, Nov. 30, 6:30-8:00pm in the Marian Room at St. Stephen Church. **The topic is: God The Father, Creation & the Fall.**

Please contact Maria McDonald with inquiries:
faithformationsfsc@gmail.com



Young Adults (YA) Group

Save the Date for an event on Friday, Dec 11 at 7:00pm.
This will be a social evening; location and activity to be confirmed shortly.

Contact Maria McDonald to register or to inquire:
faithformationsfsc@gmail.com

Options for Giving to our Parish

The options for giving are available on the website: https://www.sfscparish.ca/donate

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

Rest assured that any donations received will be assigned to your account, and income tax receipts will be issued.
Thank you for your continued generosity!

Donations for Christmas Flowers



We are accepting donations for the purchase of Christmas flowers at both Church locations. If you wish to make a donation or a donation in memory of a loved one, you may do so by putting the donation in an envelope with your name and envelope number. If you do not have an envelope number, please put your name and address on the envelope so that we may issue a tax receipt. These can be placed in the regular collection at any weekend Mass. We will be pleased to acknowledge these remembrances in the Parish bulletin. Thank you!



BRING ADVENT HOME!

PLEASE JOIN US AT ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA CHURCH HALL ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH, FOLLOWING THE 11:00 AM OR 7:00 PM MASS, TO MAKE AN ADVENT WREATH FOR YOUR HOME!!

NO REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED TO ATTEND!

Everything you need to make the wreath will be supplied. Even if you don't plan to make a wreath, come and join us for some refreshments and fellowship. What a great way to start our new liturgical year!



Thursday, December 3
11:00am - 1:30pm
in St. Stephen Church Hall
(use lower Robie Street doors)

11:00am Mass
Serving Delicious Roast Turkey Meal
Christmas Sing-A-Long
Door Prizes, 50/50 Draw & MORE!
Advance Tickets are required ($25.00)
Tickets must be purchased before Dec 3 by e-transfer to: **brownebetty@hotmail.com** or call 902-453-3644



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. Mr. Gordon MacKinnon deacongordon56@gmail.com
Rev. Br. Grant McLean, FoH br.grant.sfsc@gmail.com
Sr. Rita Hanna, FoH

Anne James - Operations Coordinator
annejsfsc@gmail.com
Maria McDonald - Faith Formation Coordinator
faithformationsfsc@gmail.com
Elizabeth Clark - Administrative Assistant
officestfstc@gmail.com

PARISH OFFICE

Office Hours:
Monday - Closed
Tuesday to Friday - 9am to 1pm

Email: officestfstc@gmail.com
Telephone: 902-454-8221
Address: 6032 Normandy Drive, Halifax, NS B3K 2S9
Website: https://www.sfscparish.ca

To place a notice or announcement in the bulletin, email it to: officestfstc@gmail.com by no later than 12:00pm on Tuesday mornings.