

# 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

Sunday 9:30 am  
St. Stephen Church

Sunday 11:00 am  
St. Catherine Church

St. Faustina Polish Mission  
Sunday 1:00 pm  
St. Catherine Church

Sunday 7:00 pm  
St. Catherine Church

Livestream Mass:  
**Sunday, March 22nd**

## Weekday Mass Schedule

Tuesday, 9:00 am  
St. Catherine Church

Wednesday, 7:00 pm  
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  
St. Catherine Church  
(Franciscan Mass)



Tuesday, March 24th  
Joseph Youssef

Thursday, March 26th  
Claire-Marie McClung

Saturday, March 28th  
9:00 am - Jennifer  
Blenkhorn

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

FAITH

March 22, 2026

### SOLIDARITY SUNDAY

This Sunday, March 22nd, is Solidarity Sunday. This year's theme is **'On Track for Justice'**. Dignity, participation, solidarity, the preferential option for the poor and integrity - these are the values at the heart of the work of Development and

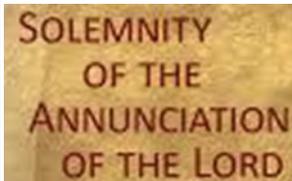
Peace — Caritas Canada, the official international development organization of the Catholic Church in Canada. Since 1967, they have been walking hand in hand with communities in the Global South to promote justice, peace and dignity.

Your donations to the 2026 Share Lent Collection will support partner-led projects that reach over seven million people in more than thirty countries around the world. Envelopes are provided in your Sunday box of envelopes, and are also available at the back of the Church. **Thank you for your solidarity!**



COLLECTION

## THE SOLEMNITY OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD - MARCH 25TH



This Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> is the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord. Established in the fourth or fifth century, it recalls the day when the Archangel Gabriel appeared to Mary and revealed God's will that she become the Mother of the Son of God. She accepted. At that moment, the "Word became Flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14).

*"Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus."*

Its central focus is the Incarnation: God took on flesh and became one of us. God had decided that the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity should become human. Now, as Luke 1:26-38 tells us, the decision is being realized. Nine months before we celebrate the Lord's birth at Christmas, we celebrate His incarnation in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

### CHANGE OF VENUE FOR SOLEMNITY OF THE ANNUNCIATION

Originally scheduled for Wednesday, March 25th, 7:00 pm at St. Catherine of Siena, Mass will now be held at **St. Stephen Church**. Morning Mass at St. Catherine of Siena for this day has been cancelled.



### WASHING OF THE FEET – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Parish will be celebrating Holy Thursday at St. Stephen Church on April 2nd, 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 rite that takes place within the Mass. Would those parishioners willing to participate, please call the Parish Office (902-454-8221) or email [officestfsc@gmail.com](mailto:officestfsc@gmail.com). Please leave your name, phone number and email address. Thank you!

# Holy Week Schedule



**Northwood -  
Halifax Campus**  
Mass is celebrated on the  
2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the  
month at 10:15 am.

**Berkeley Gladstone**  
Mass is celebrated on the  
4<sup>th</sup> 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

**PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY - Saturday/Sunday, March 28th/29th**  
Regular Mass schedule at both churches.

**CHRISM MASS** – Tuesday, March 31st  
Archbishop Brian Dunn invites all the faithful to join him at St. Mary's Cathedral Basilica for 12:00 noon Mass. (Please note, the 9:00 am Mass at St. Catherine of Siena Church is cancelled on this day.)

**HOLY THURSDAY - April 2nd** *Bring your Bells!*  
7:00 pm - St. Stephen Church (30 minutes of Adoration following)  
7:00 pm - St. Faustina Polish Mission at St. Catherine of Siena Church

**GOOD FRIDAY - April 3rd**  
3:00 pm – St. Catherine of Siena Church  
3:00 pm – St. Stephen Church  
6:00 pm – St. Faustina Polish Mission at St. Catherine of Siena Church  
7:00 pm – Stations of the Cross - St. Stephen Church

**HOLY SATURDAY - April 4th**  
4:00 pm—Blessing of the Food - St. Faustina Polish Mission at St. Catherine of Siena Church

**EASTER VIGIL - Saturday, April 4th** *Bring your Bells!*  
8:00 pm – St. Catherine of Siena Church  
(Please note, there will be NO 4:00 pm Mass at St. Stephen Church.)

**EASTER SUNDAY - April 5th**  
7:30 am – St. Faustina Polish Mission at St. Catherine of Siena Church  
9:30 am – St. Stephen Church  
11:00 am – St. Catherine of Siena Church  
(Please note, there will be NO 7:00 pm Mass at St. Catherine of Siena Church.)

**EASTER MONDAY - April 6th**  
7:00 pm – St. Faustina Polish Mission at St. Catherine of Siena Church

## **WEEKDAY MASSES DURING HOLY WEEK**

Please note that during Holy Week (Monday, March 30th, to Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>), the only weekday Mass that will be celebrated in the Parish is on Wednesday, April 1st, at 9:00 am in St. Catherine of Siena Church.



## **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 an 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!

**THE GOSPEL OF MARK** returns after a one week break. These sessions take place each Monday evening from 7:00 - 8:00 pm via Zoom. Each session is unique so, if you would like to join for one or more Monday evenings, please contact Catherine Sanderson ([sanderc6162@gmail.com](mailto:sanderc6162@gmail.com)). All are welcome.



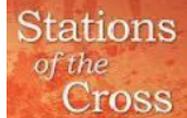
Join Fr. Mark Cherry of Sacred Heart Evangelization and Healing Ministry for Mass on Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 pm at St. Stephen Church. The focus of the Mass will be the continued healing ministry of Jesus Christ through His Church. The homily will focus on receiving the Lord's healing, and prayers for healing will be offered after Mass. All are welcome.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** (Fridays during Lent)

3:30 pm - St. Catherine of Siena Church (not Good Friday);

6:30 pm - St. Faustina Polish Mission at St. Catherine of Siena Church (not Good Friday)

7:00 pm - St. Stephen Church (including Good Friday)



**FUNERAL MASS CELEBRATED IN OUR PARISH**

Anne LeBlanc - The funeral Mass for Anne took place on Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 pm in St. Catherine of Siena Church.

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.  
May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*

**THE PARISH ENGAGEMENT AND INDIVIDUAL SPIRITUAL GROWTH SURVEY is now live and can be accessed at this link:** <https://portal.catholicleaders.org/dmi/survey/pdp4g8>

The Archdiocese has recently engaged with the Catholic Leadership Institute (CLI) to survey the priests. Since that has been completed, CLI is looking to have parishioners participate in a survey called the Disciple Maker Index. It focuses on two primary areas - individual spiritual growth and level of engagement with the parish. Some paper copies are available at the back of each church for those who are unable to access the survey online.



**HOPE**



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

This Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, students in the program will be carrying out the ministries at the 11:00 am Mass while we celebrate Solidarity Day on this Fifth Sunday of Lent. Next Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, classes will take place from 10:00 - 10:45 am for students enrolled in the program at St. Catherine's. For more information on the program, please contact Donna Noddin ([donna.noddin@gmail.com](mailto:donna.noddin@gmail.com)).



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

This Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, the program will take a break from activities for the March Break. The program will resume on Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. For more information on the program, please contact Haley Bishop ([faithformationsfsc@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:faithformationsfsc@gmail.com)).

**LOVE IN ACTION**



**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. We have a CVITP volunteer who is offering to do tax returns by phone until April 30<sup>th</sup> 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.

## PARISH NEWS

### Parish

#### Leadership Team

Claudette Carroll  
Jim Evans  
Jaison Joseph

#### FOLLOW US ON



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### THANK YOU!

Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, a great crowd gathered in St. Stephen's Hall, dressed in their finest greens!

Before saying our Irish Grace, we took a moment to remember the late Terry Sayer, dearly beloved faithful FFS participant. Our thoughts and prayers to husband, Dick and daughter, Karen. We also offered prayers to FFS Committee Member Barb, recently breaking her wrist and FFS Helper Leslie, who suffered a massive stroke.

Truly grateful to Myra, Paulette, Rosie, and Wanda, who answered our volunteer request and blessed with unexpected support from seated guests, Marilyn and Paula, offering a couple more pair of hands.

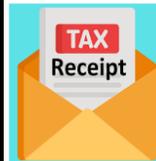


Shout out to the Irish sing-a-long organizers and musicians: Kevin, Paula, and Peter. Various games played with awarded prizes. Donations' appreciation to Jeanne and Lorraine. Congratulations to Lucky 50/50 winner, Eleanor.

## STEWARDSHIP



**Please Note:** If you send donations by Interac e-transfer, please ensure the email address you are using is: [officestfstc@gmail.com](mailto:officestfstc@gmail.com). Please do not use the former address of [office@stfrancisandstclareparish.ca](mailto:office@stfrancisandstclareparish.ca) as we will not receive your donation. Thank you for your continued generosity!



### INCOME TAX RECEIPTS ARE NOW AVAILABLE

Charitable Tax Donation receipts for 2025 will be available at the back of the church. If you will be picking up a receipt for someone other than yourself, you will need to sign for it. Those receipts not picked up by March 22<sup>nd</sup> will be mailed.

We thank all parishioners for their support of the Parish, both financially and spiritually.

### Options for Giving to our Parish

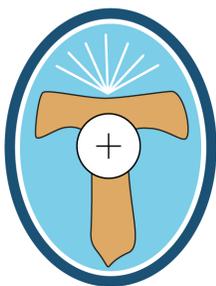
1. Sign up for pre-authorized debit (PAD) on our website or by contacting the Parish office.
2. E-transfer by sending donations to [officestfstc@gmail.com](mailto:officestfstc@gmail.com) (include name, designation of your gift and church).
3. CanadaHelps.org - a secure third-party method to make a one 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](mailto: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](mailto:officestfstc@gmail.com)

Parish Office: 902-454-8221

Address: 6032 Normandy Drive, Halifax, NS B3K 2S9

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