

## 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, February 15th**

### 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, February 17th**

Billy Nash

**Thursday, February 19th**

Jake McDonald

**Friday, February 20th**

Pat Young

**Saturday, February 21st**

4:00 pm - Filippo Bartolacci

## **SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**FAITH**

**February 15, 2026**

### LENT BEGINS ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18<sup>TH</sup>

#### ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18<sup>TH</sup>, MASS SCHEDULE

9:00 am Mass – St. Catherine of Siena Church

7:00 pm Mass – St. Catherine of Siena Church

7:00 pm Mass – St. Stephen Church

Ash Wednesday Mass WILL NOT BE LIVESTREAMED. If you are not able to attend one of the three masses and would like to receive ashes, please contact the office and we will ensure someone will visit and you may receive the ashes.



**PLEASE RETURN YOUR PALM THIS WEEKEND:** There will be baskets at the back of the churches for you to bring in last year's palms. They will be used to prepare this year's ashes.

The **OFFERING ON ASH WEDNESDAY** will be for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Please note, that we have four St. Vincent de Paul Conferences active within our Parish. If you use boxed envelopes, please write on the envelope the SSVP Conference you are supporting with your donation: St. Catherine of Siena, St. Patrick, St. Stephen, or St. Theresa. Parishioners can also e-transfer by sending donations to [officestfsc@gmail.com](mailto:officestfsc@gmail.com) (include name, SSVP as the designation of your gift, and conference). Each of our Conferences need your support. Thank you for your continued generosity!

#### **STATIONS OF THE CROSS** (Fridays during Lent, except Good Friday)

6:30 pm at St. Catherine of Siena Church (St. Faustina Polish Mission)

7:00 pm at St. Stephen Church

#### **SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:**

Thursdays from 7:30 – 8:30 pm in St. Catherine of Siena Church

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

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

### **40 HOURS**

*of Eucharistic Adoration*

#### **40 HOURS OF EUCHARISTIC ADORATION**

In response to Pope Leo XIV's proclamation of a special jubilee year marking the 800th anniversary of the death of St. Francis of Assisi, our parish will be offering 40 Hours of Eucharistic Adoration. We

invite all parishioners to take part in this devotion and, to pray for the clergy, the religious, the Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth and the World Church.

The 40 hours of Eucharistic Adoration will take place at St. Catherine of Siena Church. The adoration starts after the 7:00 pm Mass on Sunday, February 22nd, and will continue until noon on Tuesday, February 24th. Immediately following the conclusion of the 40 Hours, **Mass will be celebrated at St. Catherine of Siena Church.** (No 9:00 am Mass celebrated on that day.)

(continued on next page)

### **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

During the 40 hours, there is a requirement for a minimum of two (2) people in the church at all times. There is no maximum. We can fill the church. We thank all those who have already signed up. If you haven't already done so, please consider signing up for the late evening or early morning hours. Please feel free to register for an hour or two using the sheets at the back of both churches or online: **[SIGN UP HERE](#)**

*"My Lord Jesus Christ, I believe that You are really present in the Sacrament of the Altar. From the depth of my heart, I adore You and I thank You for the many graces You have given me, especially for the gift of Yourself in this Sacrament. I love You with all my heart. I am sorry for my ingratitude and I now resolve, with the help of Your grace, never to offend You again".*

## **BIBLE STUDIES STARTING IN LENT 2026**

### **A STUDY OF THE GOSPEL OF MARK**

The program will include an explanation of the origin of the gospel, an in-depth look at each passage, and will include group discussion and prayer. The study will be based on Dr. Mary Healy's Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture. Dr. Healy is a professor of scripture at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit and serves on the Pontifical Biblical Commission, which ensures correct interpretation of the bible, having been appointed by Pope Francis in 2014 and reappointed in 2021.



The study facilitator is Catherine Sanderson, a Lector at St. Catherine's and an experienced leader for bible studies, small group discussion, and prayer. The course will be offered virtually via Zoom for 10 weeks, starting on Monday, February 23rd, from 7:00 - 8:00 pm. All are welcome. Join us when you can as each session will be unique. To sign up, contact Catherine Sanderson: [sanderc6162@gmail.com](mailto:sanderc6162@gmail.com).

### **BIBLE ADVENTURE!**

#### **JOIN US FOR AN EPIC ADVENTURE!**

The Bible isn't just a book with hundreds of stories; it's one colossal, mind-blowing narrative. It's the story of God, humanity, and the journey from chaos to redemption. It's a tale of love that's deeper and wider than the universe itself. And guess what? It's all about Christ, from beginning to end.

Never thought about it that way? No worries, we've got you covered. Join us for an 8-session course called "Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible", where we'll take you from Adam and Eve to Christ and the Church.

We'll meet on Saturdays from 2:00 - 3:30 pm at St. Catherine's, starting on February 28th. The course fee is \$20 to cover the cost of materials, and financial assistance is available for those who need it. Email [biblecourse2026@gmail.com](mailto:biblecourse2026@gmail.com), or call 902-449-6672/Myra to enroll.



This past Wednesday, February 11th, the Church worldwide celebrated the World Day of the Sick. Following Wednesday's 9:00 am Mass, the Sacrament of the **Anointing of the Sick** was made available to those in attendance. If any parishioner would like to receive this Sacrament, they can simply ask Fr. Nathanael or Fr. Peter

to anoint them after any Mass. This special sacrament is meant for those who are suffering from illness, those in danger of death from sickness or old age, prior to an operation, or "for the elderly whose frailty becomes more pronounced". You can also call the Parish Office to make an appointment.



Join Fr. Mark Cherry of Sacred Heart Evangelization and Healing Ministry for Mass on Thursday, February 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.

## PARISH ENGAGEMENT AND INDIVIDUAL SPIRITUAL GROWTH SURVEY

The Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth has recently engaged with the Catholic Leadership Institute (CLI) to survey the priests. Now that their survey 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. While not yet available, it will be both online and in paper format. We expect to be able to launch the survey in the next couple of weeks and we will keep you updated as more information becomes available.



## FORMED

Lent begins this Wednesday! FORMED is available to support all of us in going deeper in Lent, and to help us enter into a new space of prayer and connection with Our Lord.

Hear God's voice in new ways in The Heart of Prayer as Bishop Cozzens walks you through the beauty and transcendence of prayer. If you haven't already signed up for Formed, you may sign up to receive weekly emails that walk you through Lent with *How to Lent*, *The Heart of Prayer* and *Foretold*.

To sign up, go to [formed.org](https://formed.org), enter your email address and name, and search for our Parish - St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi.

## HOPE



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

This Sunday, February 15th, a Children's Liturgy will be celebrated during the 11:00 am Mass. Next Sunday, February 22nd, 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, February 15th, a gathering for students at St. Stephen's will take place from 10:30 - 11:30 am in St. Stephen Church Hall. Next Sunday, February 22nd, a Children's Liturgy will be celebrated during the 9:30 am Mass. 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



Society of  
Saint Vincent de Paul

The **Offering on Ash Wednesday** will be for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. It is one of two special collections that take place annually to support the work of the four Conferences within our Parish. Each of our Conferences need your support. Thank you for your continued generosity that has allowed our Conferences to carry out the following charity in 2025!

**St. Catherine of Siena Conference:** Total assistance provided in 2025 - \$46,636.

We estimate the total number of volunteer hours our Vincentians shared over the year to be 800 hours!

**Regular Program:** \$37,436 in assistance included Halifax Shopping Centre gift cards (can be used at Walmart and Sobeys, Mumford Road), assistance with electricity bills, and support for two people experiencing homelessness to find a home. This support was provided to 173 households (441 visits during the year), which included 306 adults and 292 children. 98 times, we shared groceries that are brought to Church each week by parishioners.

**Christmas Program:** \$9,200 in assistance provided to 62 families (127 adults and 83 children) in the form of Halifax Shopping Centre gift cards for food and a \$50 gift card for each child 16 years and under.

**St. Patrick's Conference:** Total assistance provided in 2025 - \$89,355.

**Regular Program:** \$67,730 in assistance provided which includes Sobeys gift cards, assistance with electricity bills, and other miscellaneous requests. That support assisted 600 adults and 560 children.

**Christmas Program:** \$21,625 in assistance provided (\$16,275 Sobeys gift cards and \$5,350 in gift cards to Halifax Shopping Centre - \$50 for each child). 145 home visits made which supported 219 adults and 107 children.

We have been able to complete this service to our community thanks to our generous supporters and Vincentians.



**Parish  
Leadership Team**

Claudette Carroll  
Jim Evans  
Jaison Joseph

**FOLLOW US ON**



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**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)

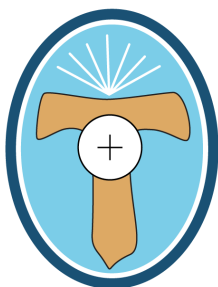
Rev. Br. Grant McLean, FoH

Sr. Rita Hanna, FoH

Anne James  
Operations Coordinator

Haley Bishop  
Faith Formation Coordinator  
[faithformationsfsc@gmail.com](mailto:faithformationsfsc@gmail.com)

Elizabeth Clark  
Administrative Assistant  
[officestfstc@gmail.com](mailto:officestfstc@gmail.com)



**St. Stephen's Conference:** The St. Vincent de Paul Conference at St. Stephen Church wishes to acknowledge the generosity of the people of St. Stephen's which has allowed us to help 907 adults and children in 2025! Collections and your response to fundraising have been most heartening. Our central Halifax Particular Council has also assisted us. We also pass on the gratitude of the neighbours which is weekly expressed to us.

**St Theresa's Conference:** Thank you from St. Theresa's Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Number of calls – 217; Number of Household's assisted – 166; Number of Adults – 173; Number of Children – 22; Dry goods and supplies included – 67; other – 4.



All of this work is carried out by our dedicated Vincentians and could not be possible without your ongoing support. It is a tremendous sign of our concern, prayers, and our 'love in action' for those that God has given us to care for in our community.

Our four Conferences within St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi Parish also receive funding through the Halifax Particular Council. HPC is the governing body for sixteen conferences. We thank them for their continuous support.

**BAKE SALE  
FUNDRAISER**

**FEBRUARY SWEETNESS WARM UP!!  
SSVP BAKE SALE FEBRUARY 15<sup>TH</sup>!**

Our Bake Sale is taking place this Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup> before and after the 9:30 am Mass at St. Stephen's! Don't forget your cash!  
All proceeds to support the St. Vincent de Paul Conference at St. Stephen Church.

**PARISH NEWS**



**ST. FAUSTINA POLISH MISSION**

invites everyone to the church hall at St. Catherine of Siena on Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, for lunch after their 1:00 pm Mass (approximately 2:00 pm). The price is \$10.00 per person for two "golabki" (cabbage rolls), a homemade piece of cake and coffee/tea. **All are welcome!!!**

**STEWARDSHIP**

**DONATION ENVELOPES** - With changes in many donation envelope numbers this year, please put your name on the envelopes to make it easier for our counters, and to ensure accurate recording of your donations for tax receipt purposes.

**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 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>