

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 Masses

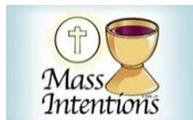
Palm Sunday:
Sunday, March 29th

Chrism Mass:
Tuesday, March 31st

Easter Sunday:
Sunday, April 5th

Weekday Mass Schedule

Wednesday, 9:00 am
St. Catherine Church



Wednesday, April 1st
Craig D'Entremont

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.

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

FAITH

March 29, 2026

Holy Week Schedule



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

**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
(Cancelled on Good Friday)

**Adoration of the
Blessed Sacrament
with Confession**

Thursdays 7:30 pm
Franciscan Holy Hour of
Eucharistic Adoration,
Confession available.
St. Catherine of Siena Church
(Cancelled on Holy Thursday)

Confession Times

Saturdays, following the
9:00 am Mass
St. Catherine of Siena Church
(Cancelled on Holy Saturday)

Saturdays, 3:00-3:45 pm
St. Stephen Church
(Cancelled on Holy Saturday)

Pray the Rosary

Saturday 3:00 - 3:45 pm
(Cancelled on Holy Saturday)

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

Sunday 6:20 - 6:45 pm
St. Catherine of Siena Church
(Cancelled on Easter Sunday)

**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



On **Palm Sunday**, we usher in Holy Week with palm branches in hand, remembering the triumphant entry of our Lord into Jerusalem, and the beginning of the week that leads us to the commemoration of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of our Lord – the Paschal Triduum.

On that first Palm Sunday, “A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.” In ancient times, palm branches symbolized goodness and victory. It was common practice in the ancient world to welcome home a king or war hero by laying out a path of branches for him to ride or walk over. With this same purpose, palm was used by the people of Jerusalem to honor Jesus, their King, as he arrived in victory and triumph, but most did not understand what kind of king Jesus would be.

In Jesus’ time, military rulers usually road into the cities on horses. Jesus came on a donkey. The donkey was a symbol of peace, and those who rode upon them proclaimed peaceful intentions. This was a sign that he was a leader who would triumph with love and compassion, and not with military might. His was a kingdom that would grow in the hearts of people who put their faith and trust in God.

CHRISM MASS: TUESDAY, MARCH 31ST

The faithful are cordially invited to join Archbishop Dunn for the annual Chrism Mass at **12:00 noon on Tuesday, March 31st, at St. Mary’s Cathedral Basilica**. This special liturgy will also be available by livestream: www.halifaxarmouth.org



During this Mass, the Priests, Deacons and representatives of the entire diocesan community gather around their Bishop, who blesses the Holy Oils for use in the coming year - Oil of the Sick, Oil of Catechumens (Baptism), Sacred Chrism (Baptism, Confirmation and Priesthood). In this way the Bishop is connected to his priests and his parishes and bears witness to the oneness of all the faithful in the Body of Christ.

If you have never been to a Chrism Mass, you are most warmly encouraged to join the Archbishop, all the Priests of the Archdiocese, and many of the faithful for this meaningful Mass that is an important part of Holy Week; another step in preparing our hearts and minds to rejoice in the resurrection of Christ at Easter.

WEEKDAY MASSES DURING HOLY WEEK

Please note that during Holy Week (Monday, March 30th, to Saturday, April 4th), 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.



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 officestfste@gmail.com.

**PONTIFICAL COLLECTION FOR THE CHURCH IN THE HOLY LAND ON
GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 3RD**

The annual Good Friday Collection is the only yearly request asked by the Holy See of dioceses and parishioners throughout the world. The collection helps the Church of the Holy Land to maintain Christian sites, so important for Christians everywhere, and to provide pastoral, educational, and social works among the Christian population. The Church and our Christian brothers and sisters count on your help to retain a faith filled Christian presence in this land of our Lord. You are encouraged to give generously during our Good Friday celebrations on April 3rd.



THE EASTER TRIDUUM



Easter Triduum is a term used by the Roman Catholic Church to signify the three days from the evening of Holy Thursday to the evening of Easter Sunday. How are the days of the Easter Triduum counted? Like the Hebrews did, from dusk to dusk. The evening of Holy Thursday to the evening of Good Friday is one; from the evening of Good Friday to the evening of Holy Saturday is two; from the evening of Holy Saturday to the evening of Easter Sunday is three. That is why the Easter Vigil is to start after dusk as it is the beginning of the third day!

Although these celebrations take place over multiple days, the Triduum is ONE continuous celebration. On Holy Thursday, we begin the Easter Triduum with the Sign of the Cross, and we leave the Church in silence without a final blessing. On Good Friday, we enter the church in silence to continue this ongoing celebration and, again, we leave the Church in silence. As we celebrate Easter, it is only then that we conclude with the Sign of the Cross.

One continuous celebration bringing us into the very heart of our relationship with Jesus, through His Passion, Death, and Resurrection. By dying, Christ destroyed our death; by rising, he restored our life. Come and celebrate the Triduum!

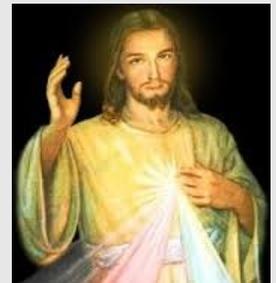


DONATIONS FOR EASTER FLOWERS - We are accepting donations for the purchase of Easter flowers at each Church location. If you wish to make a donation or a donation in memory of a loved one, please mark your name, contact information and envelope number on an envelope, and place it in the regular collection at any weekend Mass. We will be pleased to acknowledge these remembrances in the Easter Sunday bulletin.

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, a 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](#)



LAST CHANCE - SURVEY CLOSES MARCH 31ST

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



HOPE



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

This Sunday, March 29th, classes will take place from 10:00 - 10:45 am for students enrolled in the program at St. Catherine's. Next Sunday, April 5th, we will all be enjoying Easter Sunday so we will take a holiday from activities. Happy Easter!

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



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

The program will resume on Sunday, March 29th. Next Sunday, April 5th, there will be no activities as we celebrate the great feast of Easter!

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).

**Parish
Leadership Team**

Claudette Carroll
Jim Evans
Jaison Joseph

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[@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)

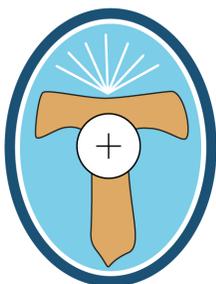
Rev. Br. Grant McLean, FoH

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**

The four Conferences of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul would like to thank all parishioners for their generosity at the time of the Ash Wednesday special collection.

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 choose which conference within the Parish (St. Catherine of Siena, St. Patrick, St. Stephen and St. Theresa) you would like to support through your donations. The names of our four Conferences are provided on the envelope so you can simply tick the box indicating the intention of your donation. This envelope is especially important to St. Patrick's and St. Theresa's conferences, who no longer have a church. We hope that these NEW envelopes will make it easier for all to contribute to this most worthy cause.

On behalf of those we serve, THANK YOU!



Society of
Saint Vincent de Paul

STEWARDSHIP

**PARISH
FINANCES**

2025 FINANCIAL UPDATE

Copies of the Financial Update for St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi Parish, the year ending December 31, 2025, will be available at the back of both churches.

We thank all parishioners for their continued support, both financially and spiritually, of our Parish community.



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

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>