



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:

Oct 4, 2026

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



Tuesday, Oct 6

Hal Dobbeltsteyn

Wednesday, Oct 7

Esther Pellerin

Thursday, Oct 8

Claire Marie Greenan

Friday, Oct 9

Eileen and Jack Rankin

Saturday, Oct 10

9am - Jim McLean (LIVING)

4pm - Mark Fowler

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sunday, October 4, 2026



Gospel Reading - Matthew 18:21-35

Peter asks Jesus how many times one ought to extend forgiveness to another. He proposes seven, but Jesus replies that it is not seven, but rather 77 times. The parable of the unforgiving servant is Jesus' elaboration of this.

The king in the parable decides to settle accounts with his servants. One servant owes the king an enormous sum of money. Despite his promise, it is unlikely that he would ever be able to repay it. The king is moved by the humility of the servant and mercifully forgives the debt. Rather than displaying gratitude for this forgiveness, the servant confronts a fellow servant who owes him a small debt. The unmerciful servant refuses the pleas of his fellow servant and sends him to prison.

The king punishes the servant because he refused to show the kind of mercy he himself received from the king. Jesus concludes by indicating that this is how it will be with God and those who refuse to forgive one another. Jesus' point is that forgiveness is not about quantity—the number of times we extend forgiveness to another. In the parable the king's forgiveness is like God's forgiveness, and it transforms us, helping us to be as forgiving as God. The lesson is clear: If we hoard God's mercy while showing no mercy to others, we risk forfeiting the effects of God's mercy in our own lives.

"Blessed are the meek"

Deepen the Knowledge of Your Faith

Do you feel tongue-tied when someone challenges your faith? If someone asked why we call Mary 'the Queen of Heaven' or how Jesus' crucifixion 2000 years ago saves your soul today, could you explain? You aren't alone. Many adult Catholics know how to practice their faith but struggle to explain why.

Join us for an intensive, eye-opening series designed exclusively for adults who want to move beyond the basics. Unpack the historical, scriptural, and theological bedrock of Catholicism so you can finally answer tough questions with total confidence.

- Deepen Your Roots: Master the core teaching, principles, and values that form the foundation of our Church
- Re-ignite Your Faith: Move from going through the motions to truly understanding the prodound beauty of what we profess

Course Details:

- This is a 9-week course. We'll meet on Saturdays 2:00-3:30pm at the Siena Room in St. Catherine's, **starting October 17**
- Course fee is \$5 to cover the cost of materials, and financial assistance is available for those who need it.
- Email biblecourse2026@gmail.com or leave a message at 902-449-6672 to enrol.

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 9AM Mass to
4PM

Fridays - 9AM to 4PM
St. Catherine of Siena 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 9AM Mass
St. Catherine of Siena Church

Saturdays, 3 - 3:45PM
St. Stephen Church

Pray the Rosary

Saturday 3 - 3:45 PM
Monday 7:15 - 8 PM
St. Stephen Church
Sunday 6:20 - 6:45PM
St. Catherine of Siena Church



**Society of St.
Vincent de Paul**

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



Feast of St. Francis Events Oct 3 & 4, 2026

Saturday, Oct 3 - Blessing of the Animals

- St. Catherine, 10:30am, parking lot
- St. Stephen, 10:30am, park across from the church

Saturday, Oct 3 - Blessing of St. Francis/St. Clare Icons

- St. Stephen, 4:00pm

Saturday, Oct 3 - Transitus of St. Francis

- St. Catherine, 7:00pm

Sunday, Oct 4 - Feast of St. Francis Receptions

- St. Stephen after the 9:30am Mass
- St. Catherine after the 11:00am Mass
- St. Catherine after the 7:00pm Mass

Mark Your Calendars for Another Line Dancing Fundraiser!

On Saturday, October 17th, from 10:30 am to 12:00 noon in the St. Catherine of Siena Church Hall, everyone (18 years and older) is invited for a fun, friendly class of Line Dancing. The best thing about Line Dancing is that you don't need a partner! It will be a perfect mix of fun, fitness, and friendly faces. New to Line Dancing or experienced, all are welcome.



A \$10 admission fee (cash only) will be collected at the door. There will also be a 50/50 draw. All proceeds will support the St. Catherine's Conference of St. Vincent de Paul. Bring your energy and get ready to move! It will be a fun morning while we support a great cause!

RCIA: Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults



Do you know someone who has expressed an interest in the Catholic faith, or someone who was baptized Catholic but has not celebrated the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist?

RCIA prepares, welcomes, and receives adults into the Catholic Church. Perhaps you or someone you know is considering becoming Catholic and wants to learn more about who Jesus is and more about the Catholic Church.

The first meeting will be held at St. Stephen's Church on Monday, Oct. 19 from 6:30-8:00pm, in the Marian Room, located in the basement. Please use the red side door on Robie Street. Contact Maria McDonald: faithformationsfsc@gmail.com for more information.

Young Adults (YA)/Family Faith Formation/Youth Group

Young Adults (YA) Group, Friday, October 16 from 7:00-9:00pm at St. Stephen's Hall

The Young Adults Group invites you to attend our next gathering on October 16. We look forward to seeing you and we hope to welcome newcomers as well. Please spread the word and invite others to join us. We are excited for the year ahead. **Please use the red door on Robie Street*

Family Faith Formation News: St. Stephen's Church for Gr. Primary through Gr. 6

We have our Introductory class/information session on Sunday, October 4 after the 9:30am Mass. Registrations will continue into November.

Please contact Maria McDonald: faithformationsfsc@gmail.com for more information.

Our next class is on Sunday, October 18. Please spread the word and invite others to join us.

Youth Group: Gr. 7 through Gr. 12 at St. Catherine's Hall

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 14, 7:00-8:30pm

Registrations will continue into November.

Thank you to all who were able to attend our Youth Group Kick Off/Pizza Night this past Wednesday. It was a great night of fellowship, so please continue to spread the word.

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



Thinking of the Poor at Thanksgiving

Special Thanksgiving Collection on October 10/11

We have four Conferences of St. Vincent de Paul within the boundaries of our Parish. Our SSVP volunteers answer calls, largely for food assistance, each week. Parishioners provide a significant source of support through the annual Thanksgiving collection. We encourage you, if you can, to consider donating to this Catholic mission of helping the poor.

If you use a box of Sunday envelopes, there is a special envelope for this collection. Please write which SSVP Conference you are supporting on the Thanksgiving envelope. There are also special envelopes available at both church sites that allow you to indicate whether your gift should be directed to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul at St. Catherine's, St. Stephen's, St. Patrick's, or St. Theresa's.

At St. Catherine's: Along with your financial support, on Thanksgiving weekend and on any Sunday, the St. Catherine's Conference also accepts donations of non-perishable food items. Essentials in our Food Bank include peanut butter, cereal, Kraft Dinner, pasta and sauce, canned vegetables, soups, cans of meat, cookies, juice, toothpaste, soap, deodorant, Kleenex, and toilet paper. THANK YOU for your continued support!

At St. Stephen's: Blessed Mother Teresa Conference is always extremely thankful for any financial contributions we receive to assist those in need within our conference boundaries. Our October collection assists with gift cards for groceries for Thanksgiving, as well as the ongoing continuing need for food help. Like other conferences, we hope to provide extra support at Christmas in the form of grocery store gift cards.

At St. Patrick's: Our Vincentians receive calls three times a week to assist those in need in the old North End community within the boundaries of Robie, North, Barrington, and Cogswell Streets. Your Thanksgiving donations support our Regular Giving Program (food, heating, rental, and other miscellaneous requests) and our Annual Christmas Program. We thank you for your generous support.

At St. Theresa's: The part of our parish bounded by Connolly, Almon, Robie and Quinpool Streets continues to be served by a small group monitoring a phone helpline for food assistance. Thanksgiving and Lent are traditional times in the church calendar when we ask for donations. The mission to help the poor represents active living of our Catholic faith.



St. Catherine's Religious Education Program for Elementary Students

This Sunday, October 4th, our first class for this program will take place from **10:00-10:45 am** in the Church Hall.
Next Sunday, October 11th, we will take a break from activities as we celebrate Thanksgiving weekend!

Program Information & Registration Forms are available at the entrance of the Church for students from grade primary to six to enroll in our Church program.

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

Celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary

Join us **Wednesday October 7th at 7:00 pm** at St Stephen's Church for an evening of prayer, music and fellowship as we celebrate the Feast of our Lady of the Rosary.

We invite everyone to participate in a candle-led procession from St. Stephen's park to the church for prayer, and for a reception in the hall afterwards.

Come and experience the miraculous power of The Holy Rosary!



Mi'kmaw History Month in Nova Scotia

October is officially recognized as Mi'kmaw History Month in Nova Scotia, celebrating the culture, heritage, and contributions of the Mi'kmaq people.

The 2026 theme is Storytelling and Storytellers, honouring descriptive stories shaped by the land and waters of Mi'kma'kik.



Healing Masses with Fr. Mark Cherry

Thursday, October 22 & Thursday, November 19

6:30 - 10:30 p.m.

Join Fr. Mark Cherry of Sacred Heart Evangelization and Healing Ministry for a series of healing Masses at St. Stephen Church. All are welcome.

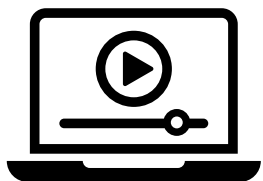
Options for Giving to our Parish



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.

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 if you require more information.



Have you checked out formed for amazing Catholic content?

Movies, formation series, documentaries, devotionals, audio books, and eBooks. The Parish has a subscription to [formed](https://www.formed.org), so it doesn't cost you anything to use! New programs are added regularly. It is a great way to grow in faith, and it's easy to register and use. Just follow these instructions:

- Go to [formed.org/signup](https://www.formed.org/signup)
- Search for our Parish by Postal Code B3L 1P7 and click on our Parish name
- Register with your name and your email address
- Check your email account for a link to begin using [formed](https://www.formed.org)

The SFSC Parish Bulletin Has a New Look!

On Oct 1, 2026, Microsoft Corp. officially discontinued *Publisher*, the program used by the parish to create bulletins for many years. We have switched to *Canva*, a graphic design platform for creating presentations, websites, and other digital products.

Welcome to the first iteration of our new bulletin! You will notice some differences already. This is a work in progress, and there will be revisions and tweaks going forward as we get used to working with *Canva*. Learning new software comes with a learning curve - please bear with us as we adjust!

Previously, we requested that anyone wishing to include a notice in the bulletin should send the information to the Parish Office by Wednesdays at 12:00pm. Going forward, **please send any bulletin notices to officestfstc@gmail.com by Tuesday at 12:00pm noon.**

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
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

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>

Please email announcements for the bulletin to officestfstc@gmail.com by 12:00pm Tuesday mornings.