

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:

Sunday May 17 2026

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, May 19 9am

Pat Young

Wednesday May 20 9am

Dave Smith

Thursday May 21 9am

Terry Sayer

Friday May 22 9am

Geraldine Richard

Saturday May 23 9am

Special Intention

Saturday May 23 4pm

Kenneth Orchard

The Ascension of the Lord

FAITH

May 17, 2026

In today's Gospel, the disciples go the mountaintop in Galilee, as Jesus had instructed through Mary Magdalene and the other Mary (*cf. Matthew 28:9-10*). They see Jesus, and both worship and doubt at the same time. Jesus approaches and commissions them to baptise and teach, "to make disciples of all nations."

Recall that, previously, Jesus sent the apostles to preach the Kingdom of God and to heal (*cf. Matthew 10:1-15*). However, they were sent only to the House of Israel; in this, the Final Commission, they are told to go to "all nations." The mission of Jesus is now to be taken to all people; the task is to baptise and to teach. Jesus commissions his disciples to baptise in the name of the Trinity, whereas in the Acts of the Apostles and in the Letters of Paul, baptism is more frequently offered "in the name of Jesus."

The ending of Matthew's Gospel can be understood as the beginning of the Church. Jesus commissions his disciples to continue to teach in his name and to bring others into the community of disciples through baptism. The Gospel ends, as it had begun, with the promise that Jesus will continue to be Emmanuel, "God with us" (*cf. Matthew 1:23*), for all eternity.

Celebration of First Communion!



On Sunday, May 31st at the 9:30am Mass at St. Stephen Church and the 11:00am Mass at St. Catherine of Siena Church, we will celebrate the Sacrament of First Communion.

We ask all parishioners to keep our children in their prayers as they work towards this very special day:

St. Stephen: Faida, Xavier, Angus, and Ada

St. Catherine of Siena: Ariel, Caleb, Chaewon, Hannah, Jeongtaek, Julian, Lucy, Marquis, Martina, and Minseung.

Following Mass, we invite all parishioners to join us in the Church Halls to meet the children and their families as we continue the celebration with a reception.

Thank you all for your continued support and prayers for all of our children.

Sacraments While in Hospital

With recent changes at the hospitals, there is no longer a chaplain on site. You must request through hospital staff at admittance for the priest on call, or personally reach out to the Parish, to have our priests come in for any sacraments.

Unless you have already arranged to have someone bring you Communion, there will be no one from this ministry available.

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul at St. Stephen Church

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul at St Stephen church would like to announce that the winner of the Mother's Day Basket was Jim Merlin.

There was \$637 raised through this fundraiser, thanks to the ongoing generosity of our parishioners!

Our next event will be a Bake Sale on Saturday, May 30, before and after the 4pm Mass at St Stephen church.

Fun For Seniors

**Happy Birthday
&
Thanks!**



Recently an appreciative crowd gathered in St. Stephen's Hall for the Fun For Seniors' Happy Birthday Party Celebrations!

Sister Rita led Grace and gave Birthday Blessings. Prayers were offered to absent seniors who were attending appointments or undergoing hospital procedures. We also remembered several volunteers; healing from health issues or absent with family commitments.

We cherished first time attendee, Miss Julie, who beautifully delivered every guest their birthday present. What an amazing "Birthday Princess", tiara and all!

Once again blessed with extra help from the guest themselves. Thanks Lorraine, Marilyn, Paula, Paulette, Savita, Rosie, and Wanda.

Shout out to sing-a-long musicians; Kevin and Jim. Appreciation for up-coming prize donations; Eleanor, Georgina, Jeanne, Jim & Betty, Joan, Mary, Natalie and Ros. BINGO daubers donation in memory of Rita Brousseau, Betty's Mum.

Prizes distributed to our BINGO and Door Prize winners. Congratulations to Lucky 50/50 winner, Val.

Circle on your calendar June 25th for our early Canada Day Party. This will be FFS last event for this season.

Want to have extra fun & laughs behind the scenes with set up the day before? Contact Betty for more info: brownebetty@hotmail.com 902-453-3644

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

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

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

This Sunday, May 17, we are taking a break as we all enjoy the long weekend. Our last class will take place on Sunday, May 24th from 10:00-10:45am in the Church Hall.

For more information on the program, please contact Donna Noddin



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

This Sunday, May 17, a Children's Liturgy will take place in the church hall during the 9:30am Mass.

For more information on the program, please contact Haley Bishop (faithformationsfsc@gmail.com).



Youth Group for Junior High and High School Students

The group meets on Wednesday evenings, 7:00-8:30pm in St. Catherine of Siena Church Hall. For more information or to register, contact: Haley Bishop (faithformationsfsc@gmail.com).



Coffee Social at St. Catherine of Siena— Sunday after the 7:00 p.m. Mass



You are invited to join us in the Hall at St. Catherine of Siena for a coffee social following the Sunday 7:00 p.m. Mass.

Bulletin Notices — Submit by 9:00am on Wednesdays

If you wish to have something placed in the bulletin for your group or for a special event, please submit your announcements to officestfstc@gmail.com by 9:00 am each Wednesday morning. Thank you!

Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth — 2025 Impact Report

The Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth remains committed to nurturing faith, supporting our communities, and advancing our mission to share Christ's love. Our 2025 Impact Report highlights some of the remarkable pastoral work made possible through your generous contributions to our 2025 Archdiocesan Annual Collection, **BOLD IN FAITH**.

Read the report: [2025 Impact Report](#)



Parish Scholarship Opportunities

The **Raymond & Eleanor (Helen) Hollett Memorial Scholarship** (Value: \$2,500) is awarded on a one-time basis to a parishioner of **St. Catherine of Siena Church** who is entering a full year of post-secondary studies at a university, trade school or community college. The Scholarship will be awarded based on satisfactory academic standing, financial need, with special consideration given to those students who are active in our worshipping community. Applications will be available at the back of the church and must be mailed or dropped off to the Parish Office, 6032 Normandy Drive, clearly marked *Raymond & Eleanor (Helen) Hollett Memorial Scholarship*. Deadline for applications is Friday June 5, 2026.

The **Monsignor Murphy Scholarship** is available to any parishioner of **St. Stephen Church** continuing a full year of post-secondary studies at a university, trade school or community college. Applications will be available at the back of the church and must be mailed or dropped off to the Parish Office, 6032 Normandy Drive, marked *Monsignor Murphy Scholarship Committee, Attention: S. Sarty*. The complete address is on the application. Deadline for applications is Friday June 5, 2026.

LOVE IN ACTION

Parish

Leadership Team

Claudette Carroll
Jim Evans
Jaison Joseph

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Thank you to our Volunteers!

True love in action is the work of all the volunteers who support our parish and our mission. There are so many dedicated volunteers who go above and beyond in ensuring our parish is moving forward in 'right faith and certain hope'. Within the Mass, everything occurs as it should because of our readers, eucharistic ministers, musicians/choir members, ushers, greeters, altar servers, and everyone behind the scenes. Our catechists play an incredibly essential role in building faith in our children, our youth, and our families. A number of volunteers ensure the maintenance of our building structures and, in many cases, are doing this while also volunteering in other roles. Many parishioners contribute to the well-being of those in need in our community, through their roles with the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (SSVP) and in assisting our guests in the tiny shelters. The Catholic Women's League (CWL) and the Knights of Columbus (KoC) often provide meals for homeless shelters. Many special events take place in the Parish to support those in the community who are in need of social interaction, including the Fun For Seniors get-togethers and the KoC weekly card games. We are blessed to have so many dedicated volunteers, and we truly thank you all!

DIOCESAN NEWS

Archdiocesan Household Program Welcomes Applications

The Household Program is an initiative of the Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth through the Vocations Office and supported by Holy Cross Chaplaincy. Households are small communities where young adults live together around a shared Rule of Life, grow through communal discipleship, and receive support as they discern a vocation. The women's household, Saint Mary Magdalene House, on the property of Stella Maris Parish, has two spots open. The men's household, Saint Jerome House, on the campus of the Atlantic School of Theology in the south end, has four spots open. The households are ideal for mature Catholic young adults who want to grow in their faith by participating in a formation program and living in community with other Catholics. Rent is A\$600/month, all utilities included. To apply visit: [Vocations Office](#)

MEET OUR TEAM

Fr. Nathanael DesRoches, FoH
Administrator

Fr. Peter Hanna, FoH
Associate Pastor

Rev. Mr. Paul Carnell
Rev. Mr. Bernie Coffin (Ret'd)
Rev. Mr. Gérald LeBlanc (Ret'd)
Rev. Br. Grant McLean, FoH
br.grant.sfsc@gmail.com

Sr. Rita Hanna, FoH

Anne James
Operations Coordinator

Haley Bishop
Faith Formation Coordinator
faithformationsfsc@gmail.com

Elizabeth Clark
Administrative Assistant
officestfsc@gmail.com

STEWARDSHIP

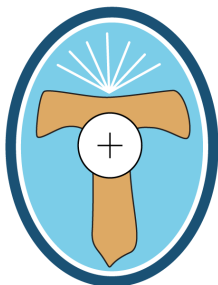
Options for Giving to our Parish

1. Sign up for pre-authorized debit (PAD) on our website or by contacting the Parish office.
2. E-transfer by sending donations to officestfsc@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.



PARISH OFFICE HOURS:
MONDAY - CLOSED

TUESDAY TO FRIDAY - 9:00 AM TO 1:00 PM

Email: officestfsc@gmail.com
Telephone: 902-454-8221

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