

## 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 Sept 27th**

### Weekday Mass Schedule

**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**

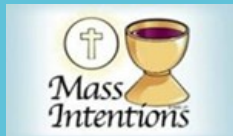
St. Catherine Church

**Friday, 9:00 am**

St. Stephen Church

**Saturday, 9:00 am**

St. Catherine Church  
(Franciscan Mass)



**Tuesday, Sept 29 9am**

**Marian Iwasiuk**

**Wednesday Sept 30 9am**

**Dominika Kleczek  
& Family (Living)**

**Thursday Oct 1 9am**

**Neil MacDonald**

**Friday Oct 2 9am**

**John Ashley**

**Saturday Oct 3 9am**

**Margaret Doris Leforte**

**Saturday Oct 3 4pm**

**John Drish, Senior**

## **Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**FAITH**

**Sept 27 2026**

### Responsible Ministry

The Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth instituted the Responsible Ministry and Safe Environment Protocol in 2010, with some revisions since that date. The guiding principles of the protocol are in place to safeguard all those to whom we minister and all those who minister. The protocol is designed to enhance the well-being and safety of all who participate in the Church's programs and services.

While every parishioner has an obligation to create a safe environment, clergy, staff and volunteers are required to be in compliance with the protocol.

In some cases, the protocol requires volunteers to sign a form while others are required to complete a criminal record check and sign the Covenant of Care documents. Volunteers under the age of 18 are required to complete a Youth Volunteer Permission Letter and a Personal Information Sheet. Volunteers who are in a role where a criminal record is not required must still complete the Covenant of Care documents.

Roles where a criminal record check is required are as follows:

|                                              |                                                                 |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Clergy and Staff                             | Adult Faith Formation                                           |
| Altar Server Lead                            | Sacristan                                                       |
| Children's Catechesis                        | Youth Ministry Leader                                           |
| Collection Counter                           | Finance Council                                                 |
| Pastoral Council                             | Parish Leadership Team                                          |
| Extraordinary Minister to the Sick/Homebound | Any person who is a holder of a key(s) to the church properties |
| Outreach/Emergency Shelters                  | Care and Companionship                                          |

Anyone in a role as listed above is also required to complete a Covenant of Care and Personal Information Sheet. The Criminal Record Check is valid for five (5) years.

**Please contact Anne James in the parish office:** [annejsfsc@gmail.com](mailto:annejsfsc@gmail.com) if you require a new or updated criminal record check or wish to update your covenant of care documents.

If you are in possession of a key allowing you access to any of the church properties and are no longer in a role where a key is required, please return your key to the Parish Office.

We thank you for your continued service to the parish, to the parishioners and the community.

**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 at  
St. Stephen 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

**Collection for the Needs of the Church in Canada  
26-27 September 2026**

Our parish joins Catholics from coast to coast in supporting the shared mission of the Church in Canada. Your gift strengthens the mission of our diocese and, together with the gifts of Catholics across the country, supports work that no single diocese or eparchy could accomplish alone.

Through this collection, we help the Church proclaim the Gospel, support families and communities, promote respect for human life and the dignity of every human person, accompany migrants and refugees, and provide catechetical resources for Catholics throughout Canada. What begins as a gift in our parish becomes part of the shared mission of the Church across the country. Please give prayerfully and generously. To donate at the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops website, visit: [CCCCB Donate](https://cccbbishops.ca/donate).

**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. For more information, please contact Maria McDonald: [faithformationsfsc@gmail.com](mailto:faithformationsfsc@gmail.com)

**Young Adults (YA) Group - Meet & Greet**

Friday October 2 from 7:00-9:00pm @ St. Stephen Church Hall\*

The Young Adults Group invites you to attend our Meet & Greet/Pizza Night. We look forward to welcoming everyone back and to welcome newcomers as well.

Please spread the word and mark your calendars for Friday Oct. 2, 7:00-9:00pm. We are excited for the year ahead. \*Access on Robie Street, as usual.

**Family Faith Formation/Religious Ed Classes  
Gr. P-6, St. Stephen Church**

Faith Formation Classes begin on Sunday, Oct. 4 following the 9:30am Mass at St. Stephen Church. We will meet in the basement of the church, and parents can stay to learn more about the program, receive the class schedule for the coming year, and other pertinent information. It is the Feast of St. Francis on Oct. 4 so classes will be shortened so the families can enjoy the reception in the hall following the Mass. Please contact Maria: [faithformationsfsc@gmail.com](mailto:faithformationsfsc@gmail.com) for more information or to register. See you there!

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

Saturday, Oct 3 - Blessing of the Animals: at St. Catherine of Siena, 10:30am in the parking lot & at St Stephen, 10:30am in the park across from the church

Saturday, Oct 3 - Transitus of St. Francis: at St. Catherine of Siena, 7:00pm

Sunday, Oct 4 - Feast of St. Francis Receptions: at St. Stephen after the 9:30am Mass & at St. Catherine of Siena after the 11:00am Mass

## St. Catherine's Religious Education Program for Elementary Students



Program Information & Registration Forms are now available at the entrance of the Church for students from grade primary to six to enroll in our Church program. You can simply place the form in the collection basket at any weekend Mass, or scan and return to [officestfsc@gmail.com](mailto:officestfsc@gmail.com), or deliver them to the Parish Office at 6032 Normandy Drive, Halifax, NS B3K 2S9. This program is offered FREE to parishioners as sharing the faith is priceless!

This Sunday, September 27th, we will celebrate a Children's Liturgy during the 11:00 am Mass. Classes begin on Sunday, October 4th, from 10:00 – 10:45 am in the Church Hall. For more information on the program, please contact Donna Noddin: [donna.noddin@gmail.com](mailto:donna.noddin@gmail.com).

### 'A Night with St. Clare of Assisi'

Grade Primary to Six students from throughout the Parish are invited to our first Special Gathering of the year on: Friday, October 2nd, from 6:00-8:00 pm at St. Catherine of Siena Church Hall.

We will start the evening by enjoying supper together – YES, we are having pizza! We will then enjoy a movie on St. Clare of Assisi. We will learn about how this young woman, who was born into a rich family, gave up everything to spend her life in prayer and in service to the poor.

There will be crafts and, as always, we will have the ping pong tables set up, and all the board games available to be played. It's a great opportunity to be together!



**Come and enjoy this time together!**

### 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 teachings, principles, and values that form the foundation of our Church.
- Reignite Your Faith: Move from going through the motions to truly understanding the profound beauty of what we profess.

It's time to know what you believe, and why you believe it.

Course Details:

This is a 9-week course. We'll meet on Saturdays 2.00-3.30 pm at the Siena Room in St. Catherine's, starting October 17, 2026. Course Fee is \$5.00 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 leave a message at 902-449-6672 to enroll.

### St. Stephen's Knights of Columbus Events



**45's Card Games:** Please join us for 45's card games at St. Stephen's Church Hall on Tuesdays at 7:00pm! For additional information, contact Jim at 902-266-4090.

**Coffee Social:** We will be hosting a coffee social in St. Stephen's Church hall on Sunday Sept. 27th after the 9:30am Mass. All are welcome to attend.

**Parish  
Leadership Team**

Claudette Carroll  
Jim Evans  
Jaison Joseph

**FOLLOW US ON**



[Facebook](#)



[@sfscparish](#)

**MEET OUR TEAM**

Fr. Nathanael DesRoches, FoH  
Administrator

Fr. Peter Hanna, FoH  
Associate Pastor

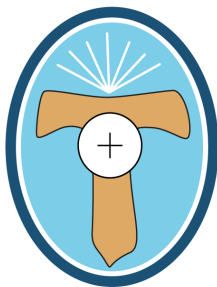
Deacon Paul Carnell  
Deacon Gordon MacKinnon  
Deacon Bernie Coffin (Ret'd)  
Deacon Gérald LeBlanc (Ret'd)  
Deacon Br. Grant McLean FoH  
[br.grant.sfsc@gmail.com](mailto:br.grant.sfsc@gmail.com)

Sr. Rita Hanna, FoH

Anne James  
Operations Coordinator

Maria McDonald  
Faith Formation Coordinator  
[faithformationsfsc@gmail.com](mailto:faithformationsfsc@gmail.com)

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



**LOVE IN ACTION**

**Pilgrimage of Grace to Medjugorje - Oct 25-Nov 5, 2026**

*Deadline for registration is Friday, October 2.*

Cost: \$3,699.00 - Includes flights, accommodation, 2 daily meals, a local guide.  
Spiritual Director: Fr. Rob Elford, Diocese of Grand Falls, Newfoundland  
Group Leader: Rhonda-Lynn Cormier of Touched by Grace Canada  
Contact Joanne Thibeau, Stella Maris Parish for more information or to register: 902-580-5350. Seats are limited.

**Healing Masses with Fr. Mark Cherry**

Join Fr. Mark Cherry of Sacred Heart Evangelization and Healing Ministry for a series of healing Masses at St. Stephen Church. All will be held 6:30-10:30pm:  
Thursday, October 22  
Thursday, November 19

**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.

The \$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!

**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 [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.

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS:**

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

Email: [officestfstc@gmail.com](mailto:officestfstc@gmail.com)

Telephone: 902-454-8221

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

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

Parish Weekly Bulletin - Please submit your announcements to [officestfstc@gmail.com](mailto:officestfstc@gmail.com) by 9:00am TUESDAY mornings