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:
Sunday Oct 18

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

Mass Intentions

Tuesday, Oct 20
Catherine Cable

Wednesday, Oct 21
Hal Dobbelsteyn

Thursday, Oct 22
John Scott

Friday, Oct 23
Rose Mombourquette

Saturday, Oct 24
9am - Catherine Cable
4pm - Junior Theriault

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sunday, October 18, 2026

Gospel Reading - Matthew 22:15-21

In today's Gospel, the Pharisees and the Herodians try to entrap Jesus by their questions about payment of taxes to Caesar. The Herodians collaborated with the Romans and favoured the payment of taxes; the Pharisees observed Mosaic Law and opposed Roman occupation.

They ask Jesus to take sides in their dispute, but he realizes their intent, for if Jesus sides with the Pharisees, he shows himself to be an enemy of Rome, and if he sides with the Herodians, he offends popular Jewish religious sensibilities.

From his first words to them, Jesus shows that he is very much aware of what they are trying to do. He asks to see a Roman coin, and asks them whose image is on it; they all agree that it is Caesar's image. Jesus tells them that their obligation is to pay to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and pay to God the things that are God's.

Jesus' response suggests the ethic that Christians ought to adopt. It reminds us of the importance of keeping things in their proper perspective. Do we attach ourselves to worldly things at the expense of the love and honour that we owe to God?

"Give Caesar his due, and God your all."

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 enroll.

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 9:00am Mass to 4:00pm
St. Stephen 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 9:00am Mass
St. Catherine of Siena Church
Saturdays, 3:00- 3:45pm
St. Stephen Church

Pray the Rosary
Saturday 3:00-3:45pm
Monday 7:15-8:00pm
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

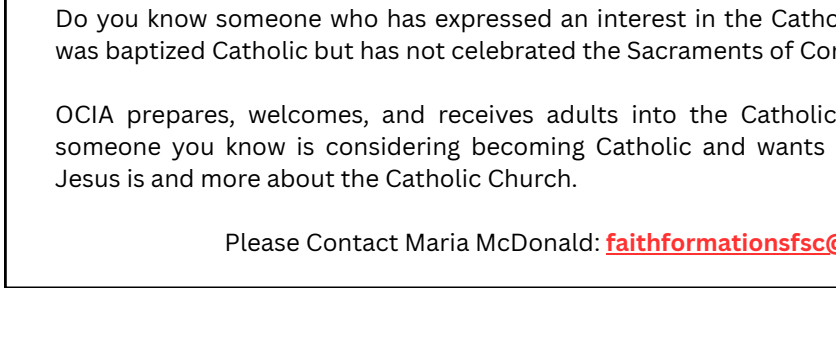
St. Stephen's
902-405-3686

St. Theresa's
902-414-4625

Nova Scotia Seniors Grant Applications are Now OPEN!

The Seniors Care Grant helps low-income seniors with the cost of eligible household and healthcare services and home heating costs that help you stay in your home. Grants are $750 for each household. Deadline for applications is December 1, 2026. To qualify for the grant, you need to be 65 years of age or older by March 31, 2027 and meet all of the following criteria: have a household net income of $45,100 or less; live in your own home or apartment; have paid (or will pay) for household and healthcare services and home heating between April 1, 2025 and March 31, 2026.

For more information, visit: Seniors Care Grant https://www.novascotia.ca/apply-help-household-healthcare-and-home-heating-costs-seniors-care-grant or call Seniors Care Grant at 1-800-670-4357 (toll-free).



OCIA: Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

OCIA
A Journey of Faith

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?

OCIA 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.

Please Contact Maria McDonald: faithformationsfsc@gmail.com

Young Adults (YA) Group - Friday, October 30

Mark your calendars for our next meeting on Friday, October 30 at 7:00pm!
This will be a social night out...final details will be forthcoming.

Family Faith Formation (Gr. P-6) - Sunday, November 2

Please join us for our next Family Faith Formation class on Sunday, November 2
following the 9:30am Mass in St. Stephen Church Hall.
Registrations are ongoing, so if you plan on registering your child/ren
please email Maria McDonald, Faith Formation Coordinator at: **faithformationsfsc@gmail.com**

St. Catherine's Religious Education Program for Elementary Students

This Sunday, October 18th, classes will take place from 10:00-10:45 am fin the church Hall.

Next Sunday, October 25th, we will celebrate a Children's Liturgy during the 11:00 am Mass.

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

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

St. Catherine's St. Vincent de Paul Conference

Each week, our Vincentians deliver food items and grocery vouchers to those in need within our community. In this time of rising inflation, the most vulnerable among us need our support more than ever.

After a summer of great need, we must turn to you again as, presently, the cupboards of the Society are getting bare and need to be replenished. Food items are gratefully accepted each Sunday at Mass to fill our Food Bank. Essentials in the Food Bank include peanut butter, cereal, Kraft dinner, pasta and sauce, soups, cans of meat, cookies, and juice. We have expanded this list to include some basic toiletries such as soap, toothpaste, deodorant, Kleenex, and toilet paper. Your ongoing support does not go unnoticed.

On behalf of those we serve, THANK YOU!

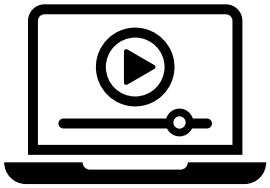
Options for Giving to our Parish

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, 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
- 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**

Healing Masses with Fr. Mark Cherry

Thursday, October 22 & Thursday, November 19, 6:30 - 10:30 p.m. at St. Stephen Church. Join Fr. Mark Cherry of Sacred Heart Evangelization and Healing Ministry for a series of healing Masses. All are welcome.

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

PARISH OFFICE

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

To place a notice or announcement in the bulletin, email it to: officestfstc@gmail.com by no later than 12:00pm on Tuesday mornings.