

#### 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 Mass:

**Sunday, Dec. 14th**

#### 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

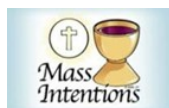
Friday, 9:00 am

St. Stephen Church

Saturday, 9:00 am

St. Catherine Church

(Franciscan Mass)



Tuesday, December 16th

Priests of Archdiocese of  
Halifax-Yarmouth (Living)

Wednesday, December 17th

Gordon Pottie

Thursday, December 18th

Jeff Nolan

Friday, December 19th

William Butler

Saturday, December 20th

9:00 am - Herman &

Ann Fougere

4:00 pm - Mary Chaddock

## 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.*

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**FAITH**

**December 14, 2025**

**The Franciscans of Halifax  
invite you to their**



## Live Nativity

**in cooperation with  
St. Francis and St. Clare Parish**

**Saturday, December 20, 2025**

**5:00 – 7:00 pm**

**St. Stephen Church (Marian Park)**

**6032 Normandy Drive**

*For unto us a Child is Born*

- Bundle up and come enjoy some hot chocolate as we celebrate the First Noel together.

- Come and see the Creche with live animals, and sing carols. Listen to the Gospel proclamation, in this representation of the Miracle of Greccio by St. Francis of Assisi.

- Instead of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, please bring a non-perishable food item for Our Daily Bread Outreach.

### SFSC PARISH CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE AND OTHER ACTIVITIES



**Live Nativity** – Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, from 5:00-7:00 pm at St. Stephen's Park

**Christmas Eve** – Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>

(Please note: No 9:00 am Weekday Mass at St. Catherine of Siena Church)

6:00 pm – St. Catherine of Siena Church

(The children invite you to the presentation of the Christmas Story at 5:40 pm)

6:00 pm – St. Stephen Church

8:00 pm – St. Catherine of Siena Church

10:00 pm – St. Catherine of Siena Church (St. Faustina Polish Community)

**Christmas Day** – Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup>

9:30 am – St. Stephen Church

11:00 am – St. Catherine of Siena Church

1:00 pm – St. Catherine of Siena Church (St. Faustina Polish Community)

(Please note: There will be no 7:00 pm Mass at St. Catherine of Siena Church)

**Feast of St. Stephen** – Friday, December 26<sup>th</sup>

10:00 am – St. Stephen Church (Patron Saint of Church)

10:30 am – St. Catherine of Siena Church (St. Faustina Polish Community)

#### **Weekday Mass**

9:00 am, Saturday, December 27<sup>th</sup> - St. Catherine of Siena Church

(Continued on next page)

**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.  
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

**Feast of the Holy Family** – December 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>

4:00 pm Saturday – St. Stephen Church  
9:30 am Sunday – St. Stephen Church  
11:00 am Sunday – St. Catherine of Siena Church  
1:00 pm Sunday – St. Catherine of Siena Church (St. Faustina Polish Community)  
7:00 pm Sunday – St. Catherine of Siena Church

**NO Weekday Masses** on Tuesday, December 30<sup>th</sup>, and Wednesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>.

**New Year's Eve Parish Skating Party** - Wednesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>

1:00 - 2:30 pm - Centennial Arena (27 Vimy Avenue, Halifax) followed by Pizza at the rink

**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (New Year's Eve)** – Wed., December 31<sup>st</sup>

4:00 pm – St. Stephen Church

**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (New Year's Day)** – Thursday, January 1<sup>st</sup>

9:30 am – St. Stephen Church  
11:00 am – St. Catherine of Siena Church  
1:00 pm - St. Catherine of Siena Church (St. Faustina Polish Community)  
(Please note: There will be no 7:00 pm Mass at St. Catherine of Siena Church)

**NO Weekday Mass** on Friday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The regular **Weekday Mass schedule** resumes on Saturday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>.



**DONATIONS FOR CHRISTMAS FLOWERS**

We are accepting donations for the purchase of Christmas flowers at each Church location. If you wish to make a donation or a donation in memory of a loved one, you may do so by putting the donation in an envelope with your name and envelope number. If you do not have an envelope number, please put your name and address on the envelope so that we may issue a tax receipt. These can be placed in the regular collection at any weekend Mass. We will be pleased to acknowledge these remembrances in the Christmas Parish bulletin. Thank you!

**HOPE**



**ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA'S**

**ELEMENTARY PROGRAM (PRIMARY TO SIX)**

This Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, classes will take place from 10:00 - 10:45 am for students enrolled in the program at St. Catherine's. The program will resume on Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, with a Children's Liturgy during the 11:00 am Mass. For more information on the program, please contact Donna Noddin ([donna.noddin@gmail.com](mailto:donna.noddin@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](mailto:faithformationsfsc@gmail.com)).

**LOVE IN ACTION**

**11<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL KAIROS COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER**

**- NO ONE MUST BE ALONE -**

Join us on Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup>, for a sit-down traditional turkey Dinner and international cuisines at Good Shepherd Parish - St. Agnes Auditorium. Doors open at 12:30 pm (Dinner served at 1:00 pm). We need to know how many of you are coming. Text/call Paula at 902-477-7118 or email: [blessingschristmasdinner@gmail.com](mailto: blessingschristmasdinner@gmail.com) . Feel free to attend if you cannot text or email us. Are you interested in helping out, contact Sr. Anne Marie at 902-403-7700. We are also looking for grocery gift cards for our guests.





St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi Parish has four conferences of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul who work tirelessly to help those in need. Christmas has been a special time for reaching out to those we serve by each of the Conferences.

### Here's how you can help!

**St. Catherine's Conference** - Although deliveries have now taken place to those within our community who have reached out for help this Christmas, envelopes remain on the tree as we continue to raise the funds needed to support this program. This year, 62 families have been assisted. Parishioners are reminded that to support this project, you can simply put your donation in the collection at any Sunday Mass, or E-Transfer to [officestfsc@gmail.com](mailto:officestfsc@gmail.com) (please indicate your gift is for St. Catherine's Conference of SSVP-Christmas Project). No gift is too small. Together, we can make a difference!

**Christmas basket draw** (Value: \$250) for St. Catherine's SSVP - The last chance to get tickets will be before or after the 11:00 am Mass on December 14th. Tickets are 1 for \$2, 3 for \$5, and 10 for \$10 (cash only). Draw date is December 14th. Good luck!

**Basket Raffle  
FUNDRAISER**

**St. Patrick's Conference** - The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul would like to remind parishioners that the Conference's work continues. Your donations will be used to provide families support for food and gifts for their children this Christmas. There are a number of ways to make donations this year:

- you can address an envelope to St. Patrick's SSVP Conference (with your name and address) and drop it in the collection basket at any Parish Mass or deliver it to the Parish Office, 6032 Normandy Drive, or
- by e-transfer to [ssvp.stpatricks@gmail.com](mailto:ssvp.stpatricks@gmail.com).

Thank you for your support.

**Blessed Mother Teresa's Conference at St. Stephen's** is grateful for the continuous support of our parishioners, and would like to remind all that our annual lottery for a beautiful **Christmas Basket** is being held after all weekend Masses until December 14<sup>th</sup>. Don't forget your cash!

**Basket Raffle  
FUNDRAISER**

**St. Theresa's Conference** - The volunteers of St. Theresa's SSVP Conference continue to take care of calls for help in that part of the Parish - Quinpool Road, Connolly Street, Almon Street and Robie Street. We are asking for donations of Sobeys or Superstore gift cards so that those who have called can buy their Christmas groceries. Should you wish to donate, please place the gift cards in an envelope with your name, address and please indicate that it is designated for St. Theresa's SSVP Conference and place it in the collection basket. Thank you for your support and kindness.



**Society of  
Saint Vincent de Paul**

### **FR. ERIC THERIAULT'S CHRISTMAS GIFT MINISTRY FOR MENTAL HEALTH & ADDICTIONS PROGRAMS**

Fr. Eric Theriault ministered in this effort for 17 years prior to his death and now, Deacons throughout the Diocese have taken over this important work. Parishioners are being encouraged to provide a gift for inpatients and residents of the Nova Scotia Hospital, Abbie J. Lane, East Coast Forensic Hospital and Community Transition Program, and Connections and Outpatient Services.



Your generosity will bring great cheer during the holiday season! Suggested gift items: clothing, chocolates and toiletries. Please note: do not wrap the item; no scented items; no used clothing; there are more male clients than female clients; and, 'plus' sizes are also needed. A box will be available at the back of both church sites to receive these donations. Parishioners are asked to bring gifts on the weekend of December 13th/14th. Thank YOU!

## **PARISH NEWS**



Last week's Christmas event started with Fr. Peter celebrating Mass and remembering fellow seniors who passed, in hospital, or ill at home. We continue prayers for past-Committee Secretary, Linda Cody and Caterer, Theresa Richard.

Cynthia Dimmer prepared a delicious turkey meal. Honourable mentions, Helen MacCormac, for your many talents and assisting the Kitchen Crew. With Santa's hectic schedule, Fr. Peter, Sr. Rita and Janet Mullock distributed his early wrapped presents to all the "nice" guests.

During the extra-large servings of dessert, Peter Browne shared government rebate opportunities and conducted a fun "elf" name game. Between our sing-a-long with talented leader, Kevin Lawlor and his band, over forty door prizes were given - WOW!

(continued on next page)



**Parish  
Leadership Team**

Claudette Carroll  
Jim Evans  
Jaison Joseph

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**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)

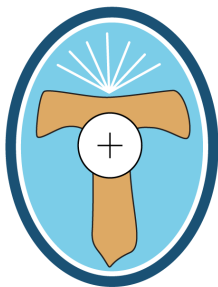
Rev. Br. Grant McLean, FoH

Sr. Rita Hanna, FoH

Anne James  
Operations Coordinator

Haley Bishop  
Faith Formation Coordinator  
[faithformationsfsc@gmail.com](mailto:faithformationsfsc@gmail.com)

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



Lucky Bob MacIntosh won the Christmas 50/50 AGAIN - two years - consecutive!

**Heartfelt appreciation to all of YOU for your kind donations or assistance:** Annette, Barb, Dianne, Georgina, Ivy, Jeannie, KoC #8666, Kevin L, Kevin K, Lindt Chocolate Shop HSC, Pat M, Paul, Val, Rosie & Myles.

We wish all FFS guests a continued blessed Advent Season and a Happy Christmas. We pray, you and your families have a very Happy New Year and look forward to seeing you at a 2026 event.

We are so grateful to the FFS Team for their dedication and sweet joy they bring to each and every event. Committee members: Janet Mullock, Trish Poole, Carol Charlton, Barb Bourgeois and Betty Browne. Helpers: Tommy Charlton, Peter Browne, Paul MacNeil, Leslie Jenkins, Jim Evans, Lorraine Hurshman, Peter Moran, Connie Bryant, and Rosie Fougere.

**PARISH SKATING PARTY – WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31ST**



Fr. Nathanael is sending out an invitation to all parishioners to join with him on Wednesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>, for our annual Parish Skating Party. The Centennial Arena on Vimy Avenue has been booked from 1:00 – 2:30 pm. Pull out those skates and get them sharpened to be ready for the 31<sup>st</sup>! Following the skate, PIZZA will be served at the rink!

If anyone has a spare set of skates, please let us know and we will try to find someone who needs a pair! Helmets are mandatory for those 16 years and under. For those who might like to come and just watch the skate, the Centennial Arena has a heated viewing area! Plan now to bring the whole family and enjoy the day together!!!

**DIOCESAN NEWS**

**CONGRATULATIONS MEDAL OF MERIT WINNERS**

Archbishop Dunn awarded three Archdiocesan Medals of Merit to three individuals who have contributed greatly to the life of the local Church. On the Feast of Christ the King, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, Archbishop Dunn awarded the Medal of Merit to Sheila Donahoe and our own Peter Browne during the 10:30 am Mass at Saint Mary's Cathedral Basilica. On Tuesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, Archbishop Dunn awarded the Medal of Merit to John O'Connor at the 12:15 pm daily Mass at Saint Mary's Cathedral Basilica. Congratulations to all recipients. Well done!

**STEWARDSHIP**



**2026 Sunday Envelopes** are now available at the back of the Church for those who are currently envelope contributors. Please consider signing up through either the box envelope system or the Pre-Authorized Debit Program. For more information, please contact the Parish Office.

**2025 Contributions** - As yearend approaches, parishioners are reminded that if you wish to contribute and receive a 2025 income tax receipt, donations must be received by December 31<sup>st</sup>. Any donations received January 1<sup>st</sup> onward, will be credited to 2026.

Anyone wishing to submit announcements for the bulletin is asked to send them to [officestfstc@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:officestfstc@gmail.com)

Parish Office: 902-454-8221

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

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