

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. 7th

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

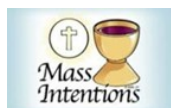
Friday, 9:00 am

St. Stephen Church

Saturday, 9:00 am

St. Catherine Church

(Franciscan Mass)



Tuesday, December 9th

Andrew Glasgow

Wednesday, December 10th

Lillian Cohoon

Thursday, December 11th

Priests of Archdiocese of
Halifax-Yarmouth (Living)

Friday, December 12th

Holy Souls in Purgatory

Saturday, December 13th

9:00 am - Special Intention

4:00 pm - Phyllis &
Harry Pottie

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.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

FAITH

December 7, 2025

SFSC PARISH CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE AND OTHER ACTIVITIES



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

Christmas Eve – Wednesday, December 24th

(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 25th

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 26th

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 27th - St. Catherine of Siena Church

Feast of the Holy Family – December 27th & 28th

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 30th, and Wednesday, December 31st.

New Year's Eve Parish Skating Party - Wednesday, December 31st

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 31st

4:00 pm – St. Stephen Church

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (New Year's Day) – Thursday, January 1st

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)

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**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

NO Weekday Mass on Friday, January 2nd.

The regular **Weekday Mass schedule** resumes on Saturday, January 3rd.

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!

FUNERALS TO BE CELEBRATED IN OUR PARISH

Michelle Burton - The funeral Mass for Michelle will take place on Friday, December 12th, at 11:00 am in St. Stephen Church.

William 'Billy' Nash - The funeral service for Billy will take place on Tuesday, December 9th, at 11:00 am in Atlantic Funeral Home, Bayers Road.

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*

DIOCESAN FEAST DAY—FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Our Archdiocesan Feast Day is December 8th, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. It was also the day that we became the Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth. Archbishop Dunn invites the faithful to join him to celebrate this important date in the life of our local Church by celebrating a **special 7:00 pm Mass on Monday, December 8th, at Saint Mary's Cathedral Basilica.** A reception will follow in the hall. All are welcome!



The **Men's Group Retreat** will take place on Saturday, December 13th, from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm in St. Catherine of Siena Church Hall.

This retreat day will be led by Fr. Dominic Sultana and is entitled "Made for More". The day will guide participants to look deeper at their identity in the Christian way. Plan now to attend.



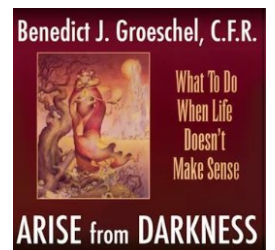
Thank you to all those who came together last Sunday to make Advent Wreaths for their homes. It was a great start to the season!

Together, 52 wreaths were made following the 11:00 am and 7:00 pm Masses. **PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO RETURN YOUR WREATH RING ONCE ADVENT IS OVER** – we will store it for you until next year. THANKS !

Br. Nathanael's FORMED Suggestion



Well-known author, psychologist and priest, Fr. Benedict Groeschel, draws on his own years of personal experiences in dealing with people's problems, tragedies and "darkness" as he offers help and guidance for any Christian troubled or burdened by life. If you are struggling with fear, anxiety, grief, loss of loved ones, hurt, anger or anything that makes life difficult or the road through it dark, then this book was written for you. Fr. Benedict offers practical suggestions on how to keep going and even grow with the help of God's grace, even when this help seems remote.



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The Christian response to the problem of evil and suffering began with the cross of Christ. Our answer is inseparable from the cross - from Jesus' own encounter with evil and his triumph over it. In this light, Fr. Benedict recalls some of our most frequently encountered sorrows and griefs: the failure of friends, financial and personal insecurity, the failure of some in the Church, our own inconsistent behaviors and weaknesses, and the death of loved ones. As we examine these painful experiences, he shows us that we can find solutions in the Gospel and in the lives of saints, heroes, and very brave ordinary people.

May the Lord give you peace, Br. Nathanael

How to Login to Formed:

Visit <https://formed.org> and choose "Formed for Individuals" to create a free account. Enter your email address. In the Parish lookup area, type "ST FRANCIS AND ST CLARE OF ASSISI PARISH" and select it from the list. Enter your name and your email address a second time to complete the creation of your account. You will immediately be taken to the homepage where you can browse featured programs, audiobooks, etc.

HOPE



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

This Sunday, December 7th, a Children's Liturgy will be celebrated during the 11:00 am Mass. Next Sunday, December 14th, classes will take place from 10:00 - 10:45 am for students enrolled in the program at St. Catherine's. For more information on the program, please contact Donna Noddin (donna.noddin@gmail.com).



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

This Sunday, December 7th, a gathering for students at St. Stephen's will take place from 10:30 - 11:30 am in St. Stephen Church Hall. For more information on the program, please contact Haley Bishop (faithinformationfsc@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 (faithinformationfsc@gmail.com).

LOVE IN ACTION



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 - This Sunday, members of our Conference will be making their deliveries of gift cards to those within our community who have reached out for help this Christmas Season. 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 (please indicate your gift is for St. Catherine's Conference of SSVP-Christmas Project). Tags will be on the tree again this weekend. No gift is too small. Together, we can make a difference!

St. Catherine's SSVP will be selling tickets on a **Christmas basket** (Value: \$250) at weekend Masses. Tickets will be 1 for \$2, 3 for \$5, and 10 for \$10 (cash only). Draw date is December 14th.

**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.

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 14th. Don't forget your cash!

**Basket Raffle
FUNDRAISER**

(continued on next page)

**Parish
Leadership Team**

Claudette Carroll

Jim Evans

Jaison Joseph

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[@sfscparish](#)

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)

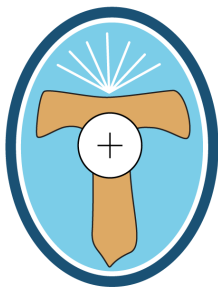
Rev. Br. Grant McLean, FoH

Sr. Rita Hanna, FoH

Anne James
Operations Coordinator

Haley Bishop
Faith Formation Coordinator
faithformationsfsc@gmail.com

Elizabeth Clark
Administrative Assistant
officestfstc@gmail.com



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 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!

**11TH ANNUAL KAIROS COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER
- NO ONE MUST BE ALONE -**

Join us on Thursday, December 25th, 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.



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 (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.

Anyone wishing to submit announcements for the bulletin is asked to send them to 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

Parish Office: 902-454-8221

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

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