

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 Mass:
Sunday, February 22nd

Weekday Mass Schedule

Tuesday, 9:00 am
St. Catherine Church
12:00 noon on February 24th

Wednesday, 9:00 am
St. Catherine Church
Cancelled February 25th

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, February 24th
Mark Dowling

Thursday, February 26th
Nina Di Costanzo

Friday, February 27th
Anne Landry

Saturday, February 28th
9:00 am - Shaun Machnik
4:00 pm - Donald Chaddock

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

FAITH

February 22, 2026

40 HOURS OF EUCHARISTIC ADORATION BEGINS THIS SUNDAY



The 40 Hours of Eucharistic Adoration will take place at St. Catherine of Siena Church. The Adoration starts after the 7:00 pm Mass on Sunday, February 22nd, and will continue until noon on Tuesday, February 24th. Immediately following the conclusion of the 40 Hours, Mass will be celebrated

at St. Catherine of Siena Church at 12:00 noon. (No 9:00 am Mass will be celebrated on this day.)

This 40 Hours of Eucharistic Adoration is in response to Pope Leo XIV's proclamation of a special jubilee year marking the 800th anniversary of the death of St. Francis of Assisi. We invite all parishioners to take part in this devotion and to pray for the clergy, the religious, the Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth and the World Church.

During the 40 hours, there is a requirement for a minimum of two (2) people in the church at all times. There is no maximum. We can fill the church. We thank all those who have already signed up. If you haven't already done so, please consider signing up for the late evening or early morning hours. Please feel free to register for an hour or two using the sheets at the back of both churches or online: [**SIGN UP HERE**](#)

"My Lord Jesus Christ, I believe that You are really present in the Sacrament of the Altar. From the depth of my heart, I adore You and I thank You for the many graces You have given me, especially for the gift of Yourself in this Sacrament. I love You with all my heart. I am sorry for my ingratitude and I now resolve, with the help of Your grace, never to offend You again".

OUR LENTEN JOURNEY

STATIONS OF THE CROSS (Fridays during Lent)

6:30 pm at St. Catherine of Siena Church (not Good Friday) - St. Faustina Polish Mission
7:00 pm at St. Stephen Church, including Good Friday

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT - Wednesdays, following the 9:00 am Mass to 4:00 pm and Fridays from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, St. Catherine of Siena Church; Thursdays at 7:30 pm, Franciscan Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration, St. Catherine of Siena Church (Confession available).

PRAYING THE ROSARY - Saturdays at 3:00 pm, prior to the 4:00 pm Mass at St. Stephen Church; Sundays at 6:20 pm, prior to the 7:00 pm Mass at St. Catherine of Siena Church; and, the **Rosary Cenacle** every Monday evening at 7:15 pm at St. Stephen Church in the Marian Room in the hall (enter by Robie St. entrance).

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Thursdays from 7:30 – 8:30 pm in St. Catherine of Siena Church
Saturdays following the 9:00 am Mass in St. Catherine of Siena Church
Saturdays from 3:00 – 3:45 pm in St. Stephen Church



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

POPE LEO XIV'S LENTEN MESSAGE

On Friday, February 13th, Pope Leo XIV released his Lenten Message for 2026. In the message, he invited Catholics to open ourselves to listening, fasting, and community, urging us to abstain from words of hatred in order to make space for words of hope and peace.

"Let us ask for the strength that comes from the type of fasting that also extends to our use of language," he said, "so that hurtful words may diminish and give way to a greater space for the voice of others."

Click here for Pope Leo's [Full Message](#).



A MESSAGE FROM ARCHBISHOP DUNN REGARDING SHARE LENT 2026

Archbishop Brian Dunn begins his message by reminding the faithful that "Lent is a time of fasting, giving and anticipation. It is also a special time to remember God's presence in the poor, which encourages us to act with charity, generosity and justice."

"This Lent, as usual, I invite you to be in solidarity with the poor by supporting the Share Lent fundraising campaign of Development and Peace – Caritas Canada. Development and Peace was created by our bishops as the official international development and solidarity organization of the Canadian Catholic Church. It supports vital sustainable development and humanitarian aid projects that serve some of our most vulnerable and marginalized sisters and brothers in dozens of countries across the Global South." Click here for Archbishop Dunn's [Full Message](#)

The Share Lent Collection will take place in our parish on the Fifth Sunday of Lent, March 22nd.

PLEASE NOTE

DAILY MASS CANCELLATION – On Wednesday, February 25th, all clergy will be gathering with Archbishop Dunn for a 'Lenten Day for Clergy'. Therefore there will be no 9:00 am Mass at St. Catherine of Siena on Wednesday of this week.

BIBLE STUDIES STARTING IN LENT 2026

A STUDY OF THE GOSPEL OF MARK

The program will include an explanation of the origin of the gospel, an in-depth look at each passage, and will include group discussion and prayer. The study will be based on Dr. Mary Healy's Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture. Dr. Healy is a professor of scripture at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit and serves on the Pontifical Biblical Commission, which ensures correct interpretation of the bible, having been appointed by Pope Francis in 2014 and reappointed in 2021.

The study facilitator is Catherine Sanderson, a Lector at St. Catherine's and an experienced leader for bible studies, small group discussion, and prayer. The course will be offered virtually via Zoom for 10 weeks, starting on Monday, February 23rd, from 7:00 - 8:00 pm. All are welcome. Join us when you can as each session will be unique. To sign up, contact Catherine Sanderson: sanderc6162@gmail.com.



BIBLE ADVENTURE!

JOIN US FOR AN EPIC ADVENTURE!

The Bible isn't just a book with hundreds of stories; it's one colossal, mind-blowing narrative. It's the story of God, humanity, and the journey from chaos to redemption.

It's a tale of love that's deeper and wider than the universe itself. And guess what? It's all about Christ, from beginning to end.

Never thought about it that way? No worries, we've got you covered. Join us for an 8-session course called "Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible", where we'll take you from Adam and Eve to Christ and the Church.

We'll meet on Saturdays from 2:00 - 3:30 pm at St. Catherine's, starting on February 28th. The course fee is \$20 to cover the cost of materials, and financial assistance is available for those who need it. Email biblecourse2026@gmail.com, or call 902-449-6672/Myra to enroll.

FUNERAL MASS TO BE CELEBRATED THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Darlene Jamieson - The funeral Mass for Darlene will take place on Saturday, February 28th, at 12:00 noon in St. Catherine of Siena Church.

*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.*



Join Fr. Mark Cherry of Sacred Heart Evangelization and Healing Ministry for Mass on Thursday, February 26th, at 7:00 pm at St. Stephen Church. The focus of the Mass will be the continued healing ministry of Jesus Christ through His Church. The homily will focus on receiving the Lord's healing, and prayers for healing will be offered after Mass. All are welcome.



ANNUAL DAUGHTERS OF ZION WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

The Sacred Heart Evangelization and Healing Ministry is holding their 6th Annual Daughters of Zion Women's Conference from April 17th – 19th, at the Travelodge in Amherst. The Keynote Speaker is Mary Bielski; Sacred Music Ministry by Stephanie Israelson; Conference Chaplain is Fr. Mark Cherry.

Early Bird Registration: \$199

Special conference room rate available at Travelodge.

Info & Registration: Rhonda-Lynn Cormier-Clarke | 902-448-3660

JOURNEY THROUGH LENT WITH FORMED



For every week of Lent, FORMED has programming for adults and children that support a deepening of our understanding and practice around this sacred season. As you know, the Parish has a subscription to FORMED so it doesn't cost you anything to use! Why not consider following their calendar of [How to Lent](#) (scroll to the bottom to see the calendar). It would be a great Lenten practice. To sign up, go to formed.org, enter your email address and name, and search for our Parish - St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi.

HOPE



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

This Sunday, February 22nd, classes will take place from 10:00 - 10:45 am for students enrolled in the program at St. Catherine's. Next Sunday, March 1st, a Children's Liturgy will be celebrated during the 11:00 am Mass. For more information on the program, please contact Donna Noddin (donna.noddin@gmail.com).



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

This Sunday, February 22nd, a Children's Liturgy will be celebrated during the 9:30 am Mass at St. Stephen's. Next Sunday, March 1st, a gathering for students will take place from 10:30 - 11:30 am in St. Stephen Church Hall. For more information on the program, please contact Haley Bishop (faithformationfsfc@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 (faithformationfsfc@gmail.com).

LOVE IN ACTION



THE ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY AT ST STEPHEN'S wishes to thank all the generous people who made our recent Bake Sale a big success! We also wish to thank the thoughtful friends and neighbours who helped us create the goodies. Some of the Knights of Columbus also lent us some muscle and Fr. Peter gave a big boost from the altar. We call that Community!

ST. CATHERINE'S CONFERENCE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL - THANK YOU!

On Saturday, February 7th, 80 dancers gathered in the Church Hall for our second Line Dancing class. Between the \$10 admission fee and a 50/50 draw, \$915 was raised for our Conference. We congratulate Agnes and Penny Young who won the 50/50 draw amount of \$150.50. Our next Line Dancing class will take place on Saturday, May 2nd, from 10:30 am to 12:00 noon. Hope to see you there!



**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)

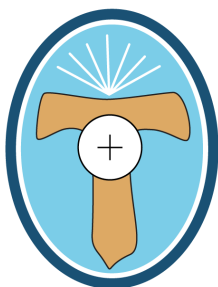
Rev. Mr. Gérald LeBlanc
(Retired)
Rev. Br. Grant McLean, FoH

Sr. Rita Hanna, FoH

Anne James
Operations Coordinator

Haley Bishop
Faith Formation Coordinator
faithformationsfsc@gmail.com

Elizabeth Clark
Administrative Assistant
officestfstc@gmail.com



HOPE COTTAGE - On February 11th, 13 dozen muffins, 18 dozen cookies, two trays of juice packs, and two dozen snacks were delivered to Hope Cottage by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul at St. Catherine of Siena Church.

We support Hope Cottage four times a year with a delivery of sweets.

Our next food delivery is scheduled for May 20th. If you are interested in assisting with this project, please contact our SSVF phone line (902-455-6525) and indicate your willingness to assist by leaving your name and phone number.

ST. CATHERINE'S SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CONFERENCE

We had close to 200 hats and mitts knitted and donated by two lovely ladies within our community. Many thanks to Yvonne Steffen and Romana Perlikowska for their kindness and knitting skills. As a result, heads and hands were warmer this winter. These articles were donated to Hope Cottage, Bryony House, Daily Outreach, and Bayers Westwood Resource Centre.



PARISH NEWS

**EVENT
BOOKINGS**

PARISH ROOM AND EVENT BOOKING PROCESS

With the many activities we have in the parish, it is essential that all groups and organizations contact the Parish Office at officestfstc@gmail.com for any and all room and event booking requests. Please also provide a minimum of four weeks' notice before the desired date of your event. Contacting the Parish Office directly ensures we have a record of the request and can then book rooms and update the parish calendar appropriately.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS - PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Knights of Columbus Council 8666 will be hosting a Pancake Breakfast at St. Stephen Church Hall on Sunday, March 1st, following the 9:30 am Mass. A goodwill offering will be taken.



STEWARDSHIP

**Offering
Envelopes**



DONATION ENVELOPES - With changes in many donation envelope numbers this year, please put your name on the envelopes to make it easier for our counters, and to ensure accurate recording of your donations for tax receipt purposes.

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 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>