

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 April 19 2026](#)

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, April 21
Jennifer Blenkhorn

Wednesday, April 22
Pat Young

Thursday, April 23
Pamela Scott

Friday, April 24
Terry Sayer

Saturday, April 25
9:00 am - Neil Joseph
MacDonald
4:00 pm - John Chaddock

Third Sunday of Easter

FAITH

April 19, 2026

Today's Gospel shows us how the first community of disciples came to believe that Jesus had risen from the dead. We may be surprised to learn that these friends of Jesus could walk and converse with Him at some length, yet not recognize him. Cleopas and the other disciple walk with a person whom they believe to be a stranger; only later do they discover that the stranger is Jesus. We learn that the first community met and recognized Jesus in the breaking of the bread, just as we meet Jesus in the Eucharist.

Jesus invites Cleopas and the other disciple to share their experience in the events surrounding His crucifixion and death. When the two disciples have done so, Jesus offers his own interpretation of the crucifixion and the resurrection, citing Jewish Scripture. In that encounter we find the model for the Liturgy of the Word—what we do each time we gather as a community for the Eucharist. We reflect upon our life experiences and interpret them in the light of Scripture. We gather together to break open the Word of God.

In the next part of the story, we find a model for our Liturgy of the Eucharist. The disciples invite the stranger (Jesus) to stay with them. During the meal, the disciples eyes are opened; they recognize the stranger as Jesus. In the Eucharist, we too share in the breaking of the bread and discover Jesus in our midst.

Feast of St. Catherine of Siena Wednesday, April 29th, 7:00pm

We will be celebrating the Feast Day of St. Catherine of Siena on Wednesday, April 29th, at 7:00pm in St. Catherine of Siena Church. (Please note: The 9:00am Mass at St. Catherine of Siena will be cancelled.)

Catherine was born on March 25, 1347, in Siena, Italy. Many holy women achieved great status at this time of history, but Catherine was the most outstanding, not only because of the extent of her activities in her short life but because of her written legacy. Her "Letters" show evidence of the wide audience she reached with her teachings and guidance. Her "Prayers", twenty-six in total, were recorded, as it was her habit to pray aloud in the presence of her followers. Her "Dialogue" was just that, a dialogue between herself and God. God is the teacher in the dialogue between them. In this dialogue, God told Catherine about His plan for us: "This is why I have put you among your neighbours: so that you can do for them what you cannot do for me – that is, love them without any concern for thanks and without looking for any profit for yourself. And whatever you do for them, I will consider it done for me."



"Be who God meant you to be, and you will set the world on fire."

– St. Catherine of Siena

St. Catherine of Siena Church Needs More Volunteers for Communion Ministry

Bringing Holy Communion to those who are ill, shut-in or unable to attend Mass is a great gift to those who have served the church for many years, especially our elderly. St. Catherine of Siena Church needs additional volunteers to make these visits. Your commitment would be for one Sunday a month following Sunday morning Mass. If you feel you may be called to this ministry, please contact the Parish Office at officestfstc@gmail.com or by telephone at 902-454-8221 and leave your contact information.



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.

Sacraments While in Hospital

With the recent changes in the hospitals, there is no longer a chaplain available through the weekdays. You must request, through hospital staff at admittance or personally reach out to the Parish, to have our priests come in for any of the sacraments. Unless you have already arranged to have someone bring you communion, there will be no one in this ministry that will be available.

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

Parish Young Adult Ministry

The next meeting of our Young Adult Ministry group will take place on Friday, April 24th, from 7:00 to 9:00pm in St. Stephen Church Hall. The group meets every second Friday evening; their last meeting will be on May 8th. This ministry is open to all young adults ages 18 to 40 who are seeking to deepen their relationship with Christ. If you have any questions, please contact Haley Bishop at faithformationsfsc@gmail.com or 902-454-8221.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with Confession
Thursdays 7:30 pm
Franciscan Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration, Confession available.
St. Catherine of Siena Church

Pope Leo's Prayer Intention for April 2026: 'For priests in crisis'

Pope Leo XIV has urged Catholics across the globe to join him in April in praying for priests in crisis. In his prayer, the Pope entrusted all priests into the Father's hands, especially those going through moments of crisis, "when loneliness weighs heavily, when doubt clouds their hearts, and when exhaustion seems stronger than hope." "May they never lose trust in You," he concluded, "nor the joy of serving your Church with a humble and generous heart."

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

Fun for Seniors—Annual Birthday Party Celebrations

Who?	Seniors and Friends
What?	Birthday Party
When?	Thursday, May 7 th starting at 11:30 a.m. RSVP by 1 p.m. May 3 rd
Where?	St. Stephen Hall (Lower Robie Street Door)
Serving?	Sandwiches, Hot Drinks and Birthday Cupcakes
Activities?	Sing-a-Long including Happy Birthday and BINGO games Door Prizes and 50/50 Draw

To register, please contact Janet: janet.mullock@bellaliant.net or 902-455-3718
Betty: brownebetty@hotmail.com

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

Society of St. Vincent de Paul – St. Stephen Church

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, St. Stephen Church, has just the thing for a Mother's Day gift! Tickets go on sale before and after the Masses of the last two weekends of April for a beautiful Basket of Goodies.

Remember to bring cash. Tickets are \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00.

We were thrilled with your generosity at Christmas!

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

This Sunday, April 19, a Children's Liturgy will be celebrated during the 11:00 am Mass. Next Sunday, April 26th, classes will take place from 10:00 - 10:45 am in the Church Hall.



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

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

This Sunday, April 19th, a Children's Liturgy will be celebrated in the Hall during the 9:30 am Mass.

For more information on the program, please contact Haley Bishop (faithformationsfsc@gmail.com).

Youth Group for Junior High and High School Students

The group meets on Wednesday evenings, 7:00-8:30pm in St. Catherine of Siena Church Hall. For more information or to register, contact: Haley Bishop (faithformationsfsc@gmail.com).

Coffee Social at St. Catherine of Siena—Sunday after the 7:00 p.m. Mass

You are invited to join us in the Hall at St. Catherine of Siena for a coffee social following the Sunday 7:00 p.m. Mass.

Bulletin Notices

If you wish to have something in the bulletin for your group or a special event, please submit your announcements to officestfsc@gmail.com by 9:00 am each Wednesday morning. Thank you!

Upcoming Retreats in April - Facilitated by Fr. Dominic Sultana**Made for More**

Friday, April 24 to Sunday, April 26 at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish Hall, Dartmouth. It is an invitation to pause, to listen, and to rediscover the life God is calling you to live. Have you ever felt that there is more to your life with God? More peace. More clarity. More purpose. For more information, please visit the link: [Made for More](#)

Living the Experience of Easter

Sunday, April 19 (evening) to Thursday, April 23 (evening) at Between the Hearts Renewal Centre, Amherst. It offers a quiet and sacred space to enter more deeply into the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection - and to allow this grace to touch your own life. Easter is not only something we celebrate. It is something we are invited to live. For more information, please visit the link:

[Living the Experience of Easter](#)

Fr. Dominic Sultana is a diocesan priest of the Diocese of Gozo (Malta), ordained in 2005. He currently serves as an itinerant preacher and retreat guide, offering parish missions, retreats, seminars, and formation internationally. His ministry is exercised in communion with the local Church and with the permission of the local Ordinary wherever he is invited to serve.

**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)

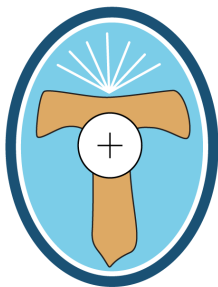
Rev. Br. Grant McLean, FoH

Sr. Rita Hanna, FoH

Anne James
Operations Coordinator

Haley Bishop
Faith Formation Coordinator
faithformationsfsc@gmail.com

Elizabeth Clark
Administrative Assistant
officestfstc@gmail.com



LOVE IN ACTION

Kick Up Your Boots for a GREAT Cause!

On Saturday, May 2nd from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon in St. Catherine of Siena Church Hall, everyone (18 years and older) is invited for a fun, friendly class of Line Dancing. New to Line Dancing or experienced, all are welcome. The \$10.00 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 Conference of St. Vincent de Paul. Bring your energy and get ready to move! It will be fun morning for a great cause.



TAX TIME - We have a Canada Revenue Agency tax volunteer in our community who can prepare income tax and benefit returns for eligible individuals with modest income, a simple tax situation, and who are not able to prepare and file their return themselves. Our CVITP volunteer is offering to do tax returns by phone until April 30th to those within our community. If you would like to have your taxes prepared, please call the St. Catherine Society of St. Vincent de Paul phone number (902-455-6525) and leave a message. You are asked to clearly state your name and phone number while indicating that this message is for this free tax service. A representative will then be in touch with you.

DIOCESAN NEWS



MAiD Awareness Sunday: April 19, 2026

As Christians, we are called to care for the vulnerable and uphold the dignity of every life. If no action is taken before March 17, 2027, Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) will be expanded to include individuals whose only medical condition is mental health-related. However, the NS medical regulator requires physicians to offer euthanasia to patients as one of their potential medical treatments without patients requesting that information and, if the patient requests it, sign referral forms so their patients can get euthanasia. We invite parishioners to write to the Honourable Brian Comer, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, to ask for stronger protections, improved mental health supports, and changes to physician legal requirements.

Send an email at this link: <https://www.nooptionsnochoice.com/english/take-action-nova-scotia-consent>

This campaign is being organized by the Christian Medical and Dental Association of Canada (CMDA).

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.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:
MONDAY - CLOSED

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

Email: officestfstc@gmail.com
Telephone: 902-454-8221

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