

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 May 24 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, May 26 9am

Patrick Weldon Bray

Wednesday May 27 9am

Paulette Dann

Thursday May 28 9am

Terry Sayer

Friday May 29 9am

Anne LeBlanc

Saturday May 30 9am

Special Intention

Saturday May 31 4pm

Katherine Lei

Pentecost Sunday

FAITH

May 24, 2026

The Season of Easter concludes with the Feast of Pentecost, on which we celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles gathered in the upper room in Jerusalem.

The story of Pentecost is found in the Acts of the Apostles, today's first reading. In the context of the Feast of Pentecost, John 20:19-23 reminds us of the integral connection between the gifts of peace and forgiveness and the action of the Holy Spirit. Jesus greets his disciples with the gift of peace. He then commissions them to continue the work that he has begun, "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." He breathes the Holy Spirit upon the disciples and sends them to continue his work of reconciliation through the forgiveness of sins. Jesus' act of breathing the Holy Spirit mirrors God's act of breathing life into Adam at the time of Creation. In fact, both the Greek and Hebrew words for "spirit" can also be translated as "breath".

This Gospel reminds us that the Church is called to be a reconciling presence in the world. The reconciling presence of Christ is celebrated in the Church's sacramental life. In the Sacrament of Baptism, we are cleansed of sin and become a new creation in Christ. In the Sacrament of Penance, the Church celebrates the mercy of God through the forgiving of sins. This reconciling presence is also to be a way of life for Christians. In situations of conflict, we are to be agents of peace and harmony among people.

Celebration of First Communion!



On Sunday, May 31st at the 9:30am Mass at St. Stephen Church and the 11:00am Mass at St. Catherine of Siena Church, we will celebrate the Sacrament of First Communion.

We ask all parishioners to keep our children in their prayers as they work towards this very special day:

St. Catherine of Siena: Ariel, Caleb, Chaewon, Hannah, Jeongtaek, Julian, Lucy, Marquis, Martina, and Minseung
St. Stephen: Faida, Xavier, Angus, and Ada

Following Mass, we invite all parishioners to join us in the Church Halls to meet the children and their families as we continue the celebration with a reception.

Thank you all for your continued support and prayers for all of our children.

Sacraments While in Hospital

With recent changes at the hospitals, there is no longer a chaplain on site. You must request through hospital staff at admittance for the priest on call, or personally reach out to the Parish, to have our priests come in for any sacraments.

Unless you have already arranged to have someone bring you Communion, there will be no one from this ministry available.

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul at St. Stephen Church

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul at St Stephen church would like to announce that the winner of the Mother's Day Basket was Jim Merlin.

There was \$637 raised through this fundraiser, thanks to the ongoing generosity of our parishioners!

Our next event will be a Bake Sale on Saturday, May 30, before and after the 4pm Mass at St Stephen church.

We hope to repeat the success of the sale after the 9:30am Mass in February!

Iconography Lessons—June 8-July 6, 2026

There will be a series of Iconography lessons upcoming, led by Fernanda Foster, one of the team members who worked on the murals at the front of St. Catherine of Siena church.

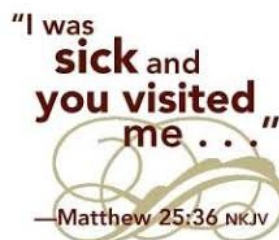
The classes will be for beginners and will offer a thorough introduction to the technique and symbolism of Icon writing using the painting medium called egg tempera. This is not a workshop; the classes will not focus on producing a single Icon, but rather will go deeper into learning the practice of Iconography.

Classes will be held on Monday evenings from 6:30-8:00pm at St. Stephen's Church hall, and will run for five weeks from June 8 to July 6.

Cost will be \$25/class plus materials, which will depend on individual needs. Those interested should email Fernanda directly at: fernandacota6@gmail.com or contact the Parish Office. Limited spots are available.

Volunteer for Communion Ministry at St. Catherine of Siena Church

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 happen. Your commitment would be for one Sunday a month following Sunday morning Mass. To volunteer, please call the Parish Office at 902-424-8551 or email officestfsc@gmail.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

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

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

This Sunday, May 24, the last class of this program year will take place from 10:00-10:45am in the Church Hall.

Our last Children's Liturgy will be celebrated on June 14!

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



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

This Sunday, May 24, class will take place from 10:00-10:45am in the Church Hall.

The last class for this year will be held on June 7.

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 — Submit by 9:00am on Wednesdays

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

Join us for the Holy Rosary on Saturday, May 30 at 3:00pm

All are welcome to join this powerful devotion to our Lady and receive the fifteen promises she so graciously gives to draw us closer to the heart of her son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Come and experience our Blessed Mother's miraculous intercession in your life.

Weather permitting we will pray in the park dedicated to our Lady, across from St. Stephen church; otherwise, we will pray in the church.



Parish Scholarship Opportunities

The **Raymond & Eleanor (Helen) Hollett Memorial Scholarship** (Value: \$2,500) is awarded on a one-time basis to a parishioner of **St. Catherine of Siena Church** who is entering a full year of post-secondary studies at a university, trade school or community college. The Scholarship will be awarded based on satisfactory academic standing, financial need, with special consideration given to those students who are active in our worshipping community. Applications will be available at the back of the church and must be mailed or dropped off to the Parish Office, 6032 Normandy Drive, clearly marked *Raymond & Eleanor (Helen) Hollett Memorial Scholarship*. Deadline for applications is Friday June 5, 2026.

The **Monsignor Murphy Scholarship** is available to any parishioner of **St. Stephen Church** continuing a full year of post-secondary studies at a university, trade school or community college. Applications will be available at the back of the church and must be mailed or dropped off to the Parish Office, 6032 Normandy Drive, marked *Monsignor Murphy Scholarship Committee, Attention: S. Sarty*. The complete address is on the application. Deadline for applications is Friday June 5, 2026.

LOVE IN ACTION

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

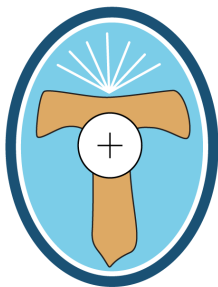
Rev. Mr. Paul Carnell
Rev. Mr. Bernie Coffin (Ret'd)
Rev. Mr. Gérald LeBlanc (Ret'd)
Rev. Br. Grant McLean, FoH
br.grant.sfsc@gmail.com

Sr. Rita Hanna, FoH

Anne James
Operations Coordinator

Haley Bishop
Faith Formation Coordinator
faithformationsfsc@gmail.com

Elizabeth Clark
Administrative Assistant
officestfstc@gmail.com



Men's Retreat with Father Mark Cherry

Hosting Parish: Sacred Heart Evangelization and Healing Ministry
Location: Between the Hearts Renewal Centre (near Amherst)
Event Date: Friday, Jun 19, 2026

The retreat theme is, "And he will turn the heart of the fathers to the children and the heart of the children to the fathers..."(Mal.4:6). Focus will be on the fatherhood of God and His heart for men. We will unpack how we as men are called to reflect His fatherhood in our families, communities and workplaces. Come and be strengthened in your identity as fathers (natural and spiritual) and empowered to live out your unique calling as men in the Church and world.

Cost: \$265.00 on-site (accommodation, all sessions, 5 meals) or \$165.00 off-site

Call Rhonda-Lynn to register and for more information: 902-448-3660.

DIOCESAN NEWS

Archdiocesan Household Program Welcomes Applications

The Household Program is an initiative of the Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth through the Vocations Office and supported by Holy Cross Chaplaincy. Households are small communities where young adults live together around a shared Rule of Life, grow through communal discipleship, and receive support as they discern a vocation. The women's household, Saint Mary Magdalene House, on the property of Stella Maris Parish, has two spots open. The men's household, Saint Jerome House, on the campus of the Atlantic School of Theology in the south end, has four spots open. The households are ideal for mature Catholic young adults who want to grow in their faith by participating in a formation program and living in community with other Catholics. Rent is A\$600/month, all utilities included. To apply visit: [Vocations Office](#)

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