



**Administrator:** Fr. Francesco Pirisi

**Office Administrator:**

Pat Belgrave (902) 454-8221  
(Monday morning, Tuesday–Thursday)

**On-site Office Hours:**

Wednesdays 9:00am–5:00pm

*Saint Catherine of Siena Parish  
“Home of the Franciscans of Halifax”*

*3rd Sunday of Advent  
December 17, 2017*

**St. Catherine’s Parish Address**  
6476 Bayers Rd.

**Parish Office**  
6466 Bayers Rd., Halifax, NS B3L 2B1

**email:** [office@saintcatherineofsiena.ca](mailto:office@saintcatherineofsiena.ca)  
[www.saintcatherineofsiena.ca](http://www.saintcatherineofsiena.ca)



**Pastoral Team**

Fr. Francesco Pirisi  
Sr. Rita Hanna  
Donna Noddin

**Religious Education Coordinator**

Donna Noddin (902) 455-1617  
Email: [donna.noddin@gmail.com](mailto:donna.noddin@gmail.com)

**Daily Mass Intentions**

**St. Theresa’s**

Tues. Dec. 19 9:00am Fred A. Fraughton †  
Wed. Dec. 20 9:00am Andrew and Frank LeBlanc †  
Thurs. Dec. 21 9:00am All the intentions in the book  
Fri. Dec. 22 9:00am Silvano Saccomandi †

**St. Catherine’s**

Sat. Dec. 23 9:00am The Boudreau and Hall Families †

**Liturgy**

**Celebration of Special Wedding Anniversaries**

Last Sunday, we were privileged to extend blessings to two couples in our community who, this year, have celebrated significant Wedding Anniversaries. Celebrating 50 years of marriage were Roland &

Sandra Lewis, and Carmine & Anna Sablone. Our congratulations and best wishes for many more happy years together!!

**Congratulations to the newest member of the Church’s family!!**



Today, through Baptism, we welcome Colin Joseph Hilchey into our community of faith. We pray that God will bless his parents, Lori and Andrew, and his big brother, Gavin, as Colin grows in the knowledge of his faith. May God pour out His blessings upon them every day of their lives.

**Weekday Mass Times:**

Tuesday–Friday 9:00am at St. Theresa’s  
Saturday 9:00am at St. Catherine’s

**Weekend Mass Times**

Sunday 11:00 am and  
7:00 pm (Rosary at 6:30 pm)

**Confessions at St. Catherine’s:**

Saturday following the 9:00am Mass

**Lectio Divina:** Will RESUME mid-January 2018  
“please watch for start up date”

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**

Monday–Friday 9:30 am–4:30 pm  
in St. Theresa’s Chapel



**CONFESSIONS AT ST. CATHERINE’S:**

EVERY SATURDAY FOLLOWING THE 9:00 AM MASS,  
UNTIL ALL PENITENTS ARE HEARD  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup> – 5:00 – 7:00 PM

**MASS TIMES FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON:**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup> - **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
– REGULAR SUNDAY LITURGY AT 11:00 AM  
(NO 7:00 PM EVENING MASS FOR FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT)

**CHRISTMAS EVE MASS** – SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup> - 8:00 PM

**CHRISTMAS DAY MASS** – MONDAY, DECEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup> - 11:00 AM  
(NO 7:00 PM EVENING MASS FOR CHRISTMAS )

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31<sup>ST</sup> – **FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY**  
– REGULAR SUNDAY LITURGY AT 11:00 AM  
(NO 7:00 PM EVENING MASS FOR FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY)

**NEW YEAR’S DAY MASS** – MONDAY, JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup> - 11:00 AM  
(NO 7:00 PM EVENING MASS )

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7<sup>TH</sup> - **FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY**  
– REGULAR SUNDAY LITURGIES AT 11:00 AM & 7:00 PM

## Franciscan Choir and Advent



The Franciscan choir will be hosting a series of Holy Hours during the Tuesdays of Advent. Included in the evening of Eucharistic adoration will be sung evening prayer, as well as silence and musical reflection.

The final date is Tuesday, 19th at 7:00pm. To be held at St. Catherine of Siena Parish.



**Christmas Flowers** – If you wish to make a donation, or a donation in memory of a loved one, it may be placed in a plain envelope marked “Christmas Flowers” and placed in the regular collection. Please include your envelope number or name and full mailing address. The names of our remembered loved ones will be listed in the Christmas bulletin.

## Religious Education



We look forward to seeing families over the Christmas season. Our program will resume on January 7<sup>th</sup> with a “Gathering” from 10:15-10:45 am in the Church Hall.

## Parish News



**THANK YOU FOR BEING  
THE MISSING PIECE!!!**

Following Mass today, the delivery of a full Christmas dinner and gifts from the Angel Tree will take place to those in need within our community. Thank you for sharing in the spirit of Christmas!



## The Origin of Christmas

The middle of winter has long been a time of celebration around the world. Centuries before the birth of Jesus Christ, early Europeans celebrated light and birth in the darkest days of winter. Many people rejoiced during the winter solstice, when the worst of the winter was behind them and they could look forward to longer days and extended hours of sunlight.

In the early years of Christianity, Easter was the main holiday and the birth of Jesus Christ was not celebrated. In fact, the Bible does not mention a date for His birth! It was not until the fourth century that church officials decided to institute the birth of Jesus as a Feast Day and in fact, it was Pope Julius I who chose December 25<sup>th</sup>. It is commonly believed that the church chose this date in an effort to adopt and absorb the traditions of these midwinter festivals that were already widely celebrated. Christmas developed, one scholar says, as a means of replacing worship of the sun with worship of the Son.

## Stewardship—A Way of Life



**2017 Contributions** – Parishioners are reminded that if you wish to have your December donations included in the year 2017 for income tax purposes, they must be received by December 31<sup>st</sup>. Cheques are to be dated no later than December 31, 2017. Any donations received January 1<sup>st</sup> onward, regardless of the date on the cheque, will be credited to 2018. If you have moved, or your civic address has changed, please notify the parish office so that our data can be updated in preparation for the 2017 income tax receipts.

**2018 Sunday Envelopes** are now available at the back of the Church.

## Franciscans of Halifax Contact Information

[www.franciscansofhalifax.com](http://www.franciscansofhalifax.com)

Moderator: [fatherfrancesco@gmail.com](mailto:fatherfrancesco@gmail.com)