



**Administrator:** Fr. Francesco Pirisi

**Office Administrator:**

Pat Belgrave (902) 454-8221  
(Open to the public: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings at St. Theresa)

**On-site Office Hours:**

Wednesdays 9:00am-5:00pm

*Saint Catherine of Siena Parish  
"Home of the Franciscans of Halifax"*

*The Feast of the Holy Family  
December 30, 2018*

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

**Parish Office**  
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**Pastoral Team**

Fr. Francesco Pirisi  
Sr. Rita Hanna  
Donna Noddin

**Religious Education Coordinator**

Donna Noddin (902) 455-1617  
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**Daily Mass Intentions**

**St. Theresa's**

Tues. Jan 1	9:00am	Elias Barry †
Wed. Jan 2	9:00am	Michael Murphy †
Thurs. Jan 3	9:00am	All the intentions in the book
Fri. Jan 4	9:00am	1st Friday of the Month (Memorial Book)

**St. Catherine's**

Sat. Jan. 5 9:00am Bride and James Timms †



The **Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God** is the oldest feast of Mary celebrated in the Catholic Church. A Solemnity is the highest rank of liturgical celebrations, higher than feast days or memorials. This Solemnity is a celebration of Mary's motherhood

of Jesus. Mother of God, or in Greek *Theotokos* (God-bearer), is the highest title ever to be given to Mary. She was given this title during the Council of Ephesus in 431 AD. The Council taught that Jesus' humanity and divinity could not be separated, and therefore Mary rightly deserved the title of Mother of God.

The feast is also celebrated on the Octave of Christmas. Octave comes from the Latin word for "eight" and is the name for the ancient Church practice of celebrating Christmas for eight days. This tradition dates back to the Old Testament, when the Hebrew people observed many of their feasts for a period of eight days. Only Christmas and Easter enjoy the privilege of an Octave.

Just as Christmas honors Jesus as the 'Prince of Peace', the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God honors Mary as the 'Queen of Peace'. New Year's Day is also designated as the 'World Day of Peace', further acknowledging the role of Mary in our hearts and in our world. The World Day of Peace was established by Pope Paul VI in 1968 who asked that "every year, this commemoration be repeated as a hope and as a promise, at the beginning of the calendar".

**Liturgy**



The **Feast of the Holy Family** is a liturgical celebration in honor of Jesus of Nazareth, his mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and his foster father, Saint Joseph. Scripture tells us practically nothing about the first years and the boyhood of the Child Jesus. All we know are the facts of the journey in Egypt, the return to Nazareth, and the incidents that occurred when the twelve-year-old boy accompanied his parents to Jerusalem.

This feast is celebrated on the Sunday between Christmas Day and New Year's Day, or if Christmas and New Year's is on a Sunday, it is celebrated on December 30<sup>th</sup> (always a Friday in such years). The feast was instituted by Pope Leo XIII in 1893. This feast was instituted with the hope that it might instill into Christian families something of the faithful love and the devotion that characterize the family of Nazareth. The Holy Family is the model for all Christian families to follow.

**NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS – SOLEMNITY OF MARY**

MONDAY, DECEMBER 31<sup>ST</sup> – 6:00 PM

TUESDAY, JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup> - 11:00 AM

(NO 7:00 PM EVENING MASS FOR NEW YEARS )

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 6<sup>TH</sup> - FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY**

– REGULAR SUNDAY LITURGIES AT 11:00 AM & 7:00 PM

**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  
7:00pm (rosary at 6:25pm)

**Confessions at St. Catherine's:**

Saturday following the 9:00am Mass

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**

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

## Religious Education



We look forward to seeing families over the Christmas season. Our program will resume on January 6<sup>th</sup> with a "Gathering" from 10:15-10:45 am in the Church Hall.

## Diocesan News

**Update on New Parishes: Stronger Together** - In 2017, Archbishop Mancini initiated *Equip the Saints* a three year pastoral plan for the renewal of our Diocese. Part of that plan calls for a reorganization of parishes through the *New Parishes: Stronger Together* process. In January 2019, our Diocese will move from consultation to implementation of *New Parishes: Stronger Together*. This plan calls for the merger of 65 existing parishes and 25 missions into 19 new parishes plus the cathedral. On January 1<sup>st</sup>, the Bishop will announce the groups of parishes who will be asked to work toward merger throughout the course of 2019. (Please note: The North End Parish will consist of the churches of St. Catherine, St. Theresa, St. Patrick, and St. Mother Teresa of Kolkata.)

The new parishes will:

- Be one canonical parish - one pastoral council, one finance council, one leadership team
- Contain multiple churches – closing buildings is not the goal
- Provide pastoral care and ministries in collaboration
- Share human and financial resources
- Be led by clergy and lay people using their gifts and strengths in a spirit of co-responsibility and mutuality.

The first phase of implementation requires existing parishes to form *transition teams* within their new grouping. These teams of six to eight people will be made up of the pastors and representative parishioners from each church in the grouping. (Please note: The North End Parish has already held their

Their task will be to lay the groundwork for a merger of the separate entities by no later than December 31, 2019. After the merger is completed a moderator will be appointed to lead the new parish on the path of growth toward becoming a community of missionary disciples. The moderator will work with the clergy, leadership team, pastoral council, and finance council to realize this new vision for parish life. Please pray for the success of our effort to become a more missionary church.

**Archbishop Mancini on Divine Renovation Podcast** – In mid-December, Archbishop Mancini joined the team at Divine Renovation as a guest (their first bishop!) on their weekly podcast. Archbishop Mancini shares his journey towards becoming the Archbishop of Halifax-Yarmouth and his thoughts on leadership. The podcast is hosted by Dan O'Rourke, Executive Director of Divine Renovation. Stephanie Potter, Communications Manager for the Christian Medical and Dental Society and Fr. James Mallon round out the line-up of guests.

Check out their conversation by visiting <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aKOO518NSzc&feature=youtu.be>

## Stewardship—A Way of Life

### Stewardship is...

**The ultimate aim of Saint Paul's Letter to the Colossians is to teach the community how to deepen its relationship with Christ Jesus. His list of virtues summarizes the ideals of communal stewardship: compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. For Paul, practicing these virtues opens our hearts to Christ as individuals and as a worshipping community**

...EVERYTHING we think, say, and do after we say "I believe"

