



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”*

*Feast of the Holy Family
December 31, 2017*

St. Catherine’s Parish Address
6476 Bayers Rd.

Parish Office
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Pastoral Team

Fr. Francesco Pirisi
Sr. Rita Hanna
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Religious Education Coordinator

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Daily Mass Intentions

St. Theresa’s

Tues. Jan 2 9:00am Maria and Giuseppe Santilli †
Wed. Jan 3 9:00am Antonietta Proserpi †
Thurs. Jan 4 9:00am All the intentions in the book
Fri. Jan 5 9:00am 1st Friday of the Month
(memorial book)

St. Catherine’s

Sat. Jan 6 9:00am Gary Bowers †



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 30th (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 – MONDAY, JANUARY 1ST - 11:00 AM

(NO 7:00 PM EVENING MASS)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7TH - FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

– REGULAR SUNDAY LITURGIES AT 11:00 AM &

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

Religious Education



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

Parish News



As we begin a New Year, we can reflect on the many blessings that our Parish family has received. In 2018, we will celebrate our **70th Anniversary** as a community of faith. Yes, it was in 1948 that Archbishop John T. McNally established the parish community of St. Catherine of Siena. In the years

preceding World War II, there were few homes in this section of the city. Trees and bushes grew in abundance and animals grazed in the fields. The few Catholics who lived in this area sent their children to Oxford Street School, and attended Mass at St. Agnes or St. Joseph's. After 1931, some then went to the new St. Theresa's Parish on North Street.

World War II brought a great influx of people to Halifax and soon the need for housing became apparent. To meet this need, people began to look beyond the generally accepted boundaries of the city, and lots were purchased and homes built in the fast developing north-west end. It was natural, at the time, that many of the owners of the new homes were Catholics, and it could reasonably be expected that even more Catholics would move to this section, so thoughts were turned to the establishment of a new church, and that is how we came to be!

Our first Pastor was Father Frank Carroll. On a trip to Rome, Fr. Carroll had celebrated Mass over the tomb or at a shrine in honor of St. Catherine of Siena. It was he who then requested permission to have our new parish named after this remarkable women.

On February 15, 1948, the first Mass of our new Parish family was celebrated in the army barracks, our temporary home (where the RCMP building now stands) on the corner of Oxford Street and Bayers Road. The sod was turned for the new church property on November 5th, 1950. It was not until 1953 that our family home was completed. From June 2nd-5th, 1953, the Church Hall was officially opened and our first Parish Fair took place. Then, on Friday, September 18th, 1953, the Blessed Sacrament was taken in procession from the military barracks to our new home on Bayers Road.

On that day, the Sunday bulletin read: "Pure happiness could be seen on the faces of all and many were the tears of joy that welled up in the eyes of those parishioners who for five years and seven months had waited and prayed for this great day." On May 2, 1954, Archbishop Berry solemnly blessed the Church.

We have much for which to be thankful, and we will have multiple times throughout this year to give thanks and to celebrate our past, present, and future!



Franciscans of Halifax Contact Information

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