



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 Baptism of the Lord
January 13, 2018*

St. Catherine's Parish Address
6476 Bayers Rd.

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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 15	9:00am	Anthony Reggi †
Wed. Jan 16	9:00am	The Sampson Family †
Thurs. Jan 17	9:00am	All the intentions in the book
Fri. Jan 18	9:00am	Gerry Upcott †

St. Catherine's

Sat. Jan. 19 9:00am Antony Whalen †

Liturgy

The Christmas Season concludes today



The celebration of the Baptism of Our Lord brings to an end the season of Christmas. In this short span of time, we have gone from Jesus being born as an infant in the manger, to him being baptized by John the Baptist in the Jordan at the age of 30!

The baptism of Jesus is, on his part, the acceptance and beginning of his mission as God's suffering Servant. He allows himself to be numbered among sinners and out of love for us, he consents to his future baptism of death for the forgiveness of our sins. The Father's voice responds to the Son's acceptance, proclaiming his entire delight in his Son. The Spirit whom Jesus possessed in fullness from his conception comes to "rest on him". At his baptism "the heavens were opened" - the heavens that Adam's sin had closed.

Jesus Christ had no need of the Sacrament of Baptism, as we do, for He was without sin. However, in submitting Himself humbly to the baptism of John the Baptist, Christ provided the example for the rest of us. If even He should be baptized, though He had no need of it, how much more should the rest of us be thankful for this sacrament, which frees us from the darkness of sin and allows us to enter into the life of the Church, the life of Christ on earth! His Baptism, therefore, was necessary--not for Him, but for us.



Ending Christmas with the Baptism of the Lord makes theological sense even though the two events (Jesus' birth and baptism) are separated by roughly 30 years. In a certain way, both events are about beginnings. At Christmas, we meet Jesus for the first time as a baby, the start of the hidden life of Christ. At His baptism, we meet Jesus for the first time as an adult, the start of the public ministry of Christ.

Religious Education



Our next "Gathering" will take place on Sunday, January 20th, from 10:15-10:45 am for students from grade primary to nine.

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

Parish News

Christmas Update on our Sponsored Family

Honer and Fehime Ali and their children, Helin and Saya, are doing very well. Their English is progressing, and they are easily able to understand and participate in conversations. Honer is still attending ISANS two hours a day for language classes and has a part-time job at IKEA. One of our parishioners, Rodi, helped him to get the job and is very supportive of him. When Honer's English is good enough, he will look at what training he needs for a future career.

Fehime is very busy at home with her two small children, but they are happy and healthy, and it is beautiful to see them growing so well. They continue to live in Dartmouth near Honer's brother, Chahin, and his wife, Yasmin, and their daughters, Shanna, Yara and Joanna. They are a close and loving family. They send their best wishes to all the parishioners of St. Catherine's, and all the people who supported them to come to Canada, and their thanks for everything.



Tuesday Morning Arts & Crafts

has returned after the Christmas break. Each Tuesday in our Church Hall, a group of ladies gather from 9:30 to 11:30 am to share their enthusiasm for crafting. This inter-denominational

group has been meeting in friendship for 50 years. Some weeks, there can be as many as twenty-five in attendance.

If you would like to join with them, feel free to drop by any Tuesday morning. And . . . make sure you don't miss tea time at 10:30 am!

Meetings

St. Catherine's Pastoral Council will meet on Tuesday, January 15th, at 6:45 pm in the Church Hall. All members are encouraged to attend.

Franciscan News



Franciscan Choir Looking for New Members - The Franciscan choir will be accepting new members for its winter season. Tenors would be especially welcome!

The choir currently sings repertoire from Taize prayer and traditional hymnody. Hopefully, we will delve into some sacred polyphony this winter! If you are interested, please contact Sr. Ilaria at 902-454-0441 or smartha85@gmail.com. An informal audition will be required. You can sing something as simple as "Happy Birthday".

Diocesan News

2019 Archbishops New Years Levee - Archbishop Mancini hosted his annual New Year's Day Levee in the hall of Saint Mary's Cathedral Basilica after Mass. Thank you to all who attended! Despite the messy weather, the Archbishop greeted over 150 guests. Wishing everyone many blessings in the New Year! Here is a link to photos:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/9ndg3rbqkvvyi85/AAApI07cEZIx4ZC8PhoMw6ZEa?dl=0>

Steubenville Atlantic Franciscan LEAD applications open January 16th - Franciscan LEAD (Leadership, Evangelization, And Discipleship) is a five-day opportunity for teens that are ready to step up to the next level in leadership and evangelization. It is an intense (but also really fun) immersion in Catholic teachings on leadership, evangelization, and discipleship inspired by the life and witness of St. Francis of Assisi. Teens learn about and experience different forms of prayer, and gain practical tools and skills for sharing their faith with others and becoming leaders in the Church (and beyond). **LEAD isn't for everyone... but if you're passionate about your faith** and want to learn how to better live as a disciple of Christ and an evangelist, maybe it's for you! LEAD takes place the week before the Steubenville Atlantic Conference, **July 1-5, 2019**, at St. Mary's University in Halifax. Learn more at site.steubenvilleconferences.com/lead

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Stewardship—A Way of Life

Stewardship is...

"John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming. . . He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.'" (Luke 3:16)

The Catholic Catechism states that "Jesus' immersion in the water is a sign for all human beings of the need to die to themselves to do God's will". In other words, as baptized Catholics there is only one gift that we need to give to Jesus – the gift of ourselves.

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