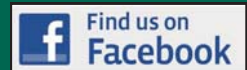




SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA PARISH
547 Washington Street, Norwood, MA 02062
781-762-6080, parish@stcatherinenorwood.org
www.stcatherinenorwood.org



www.facebook.com/stcatherinenorwood



For today in the city of David
a savior has been born for you who is
Christ and Lord.

Luke 2:11

PARISH SCHEDULE

Sunday Masses: Saturday: 4 p.m.
Sunday: 7 a.m., 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Weekday Masses:
Monday-Friday: 6:45 a.m.; Saturday: 7 a.m.

Traditional Latin Mass: Monday: 7 p.m.

Holy Day Masses: 6:45 a.m., 12:10 p.m. and
6:30 p.m. on the Holy Day

Rosary: Daily at 6:20 a.m.

Eucharistic Adoration: In the chapel on
Thursdays 7:15 a.m. - 5 p.m., Mondays 6-6:50
p.m. and First Friday/Saturday 6 p.m. - 6:45
a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturdays
from 3-4 p.m. and Mondays 6-6:50 p.m. in the
chapel or by appointment by contacting one of
the priests.

Sacrament of Baptism: 1 p.m. on the 2nd
and 4th Sunday of each month. Please call the
parish office for more details.

Sacrament of Matrimony: Engaged couples
must contact one of the parish priests at least 8
months prior to making other wedding plans.

Sacrament of the Sick: Please contact one of
our parish priests.

Saint Catherine of Siena Parish, 781-762-6080
Fr. Stephen Donohoe, Pastor x112
Fr. Timothy Hynes, Parochial Vicar x127
Fr. Maxwell Chukwudiebere, Parochial Vicar x118
Frank Tremblay, Deacon
Joseph Scolastico, Director of Music/Organist x126
Beth Lindberg, Religious Education Coordinator x122
religiouseducaton@stcatherinenorwood.org
Bob Calarese, Parish Business Manager x119
Diane Butts, Parish Bookkeeper x120
Laura Hayes, Administrative Assistant x110

Saint Catherine of Siena School, 781-769-5354
Beth Tanner, Principal
Rob Hall, Vice Principal
Lisa Lydon, Director of Admissions x277
Linda Canniff, Director of Strategic Planning & Tuition x275
Leah Ramsdell, Director of Campus Ministry
Briege Pilch, Director of Curriculum & Student Life x276
John Farrell, Director of Facilities & Grounds x269

St. Vincent de Paul Society, 781-414-2744

Our Mission: St. Catherine of Siena Parish is a Roman Catholic community established in Norwood, MA in 1890. Responding to our baptismal call to holiness, we seek to live the teachings of Christ in the Roman Catholic tradition through worship, education, service and evangelization.

All are welcome in Christ! *"...To those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints with all who are invoking the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every place... Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to God continuously for you because of the grace of God that has been given to you in Christ Jesus. By that grace, in all things, you have become wealthy in him... He too will strengthen you, even until the end, without guilt..."* Introduction of First Letter of Saint Paul to Corinthians

DECEMBER 24/25, 2023

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT/CHRISTMAS

Blessed & Merry Christmas

There is something in the medical field called “gene therapy.” According to the Mayo Clinic, gene therapy involves altering faulty or diseased genes inside your body with healthy ones. It involves the smallest elements within the gene, the DNA. So, what does this have to do with Christmas?

Well, the Gospel reading on Christmas Eve has a long version, rarely chosen, called, *The Genealogy of Jesus*; you know, the one that goes; *Amminadab became the father of Nashon...Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel...* etc. It involves all kinds of Biblical characters dating back throughout salvation history. But why does the Church give us that Gospel reading of all times on Christmas Eve?

Well, just as gene therapy aims to bring healing and medicine to the root cause of illness in the depth of the human person, so too does God, in Jesus Christ. God becomes man in Jesus Christ, entering fully into our human nature. As C.S. Lewis described it, Jesus *went into enemy - occupied territory*, to root out sin and evil. He entered the human soul, woven in our flesh, hidden in our humanity. As the gene is to the body, so the soul is to man. Like rewriting the genetic code or DNA, Jesus rewrites the “soul code” of the human person, restoring us to our original justice and nature, created in God’s Image and Likeness, before the fall of sin.

In Divine Grace, Jesus is our saving medicine, the medicine of immortality working from the inside out. It is not magic but grace, the choice of grace and the choice of conforming ourselves to the life of Jesus and allowing His Divine Life in us. To the willing soul, the Lord infuses divine grace through the sacramental life of His Church. This saving grace enlightens our inner soul, which informs our entire being in grace and truth. This is why Jesus is called the *Light and Life* and the *Light of the world, the Light that shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.*

As we celebrate Christmas, we rightly recognize and identify it as a time of light, the Light of Christ, the Star of Bethlehem, the brilliance of angels singing in the fields. We too are called to reflect the light of Christ, an enlightened body and soul. The Lord said to His disciples; *“you are the light of the world and the salt of the earth... Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”*

Only by drawing close to the Light of Christ can we reflect that light and warmth in our families and the world around us. May our Church be ever filled with the joyful worship and praise of Christmas.

On behalf of the parish priests and staff, we pray you have a Blessed and Merry Christmas.

Father Stephen S. Donohoe
Pastor



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE: 4 PM AND 6 PM
(4 p.m. in both church and cafeteria)

MIDNIGHT MASS
(Carols begin at 11:30 p.m.)

CHRISTMAS MORNING
7 AM, 9 AM AND 11 AM



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PARISH SUPPORT

December 17, 2023: Offertory numbers will be posted in next weekend's bulletin.



Thank you to everyone who supports our parish. There are a number of options when it comes to stewardship:

1. Online Giving -- For those who are able, online giving is a great way to regularly support our parish whether you are able to attend Mass or not. Just visit our website at: www.stcatherinenorwood.org

and click on Online Giving or scan the code shown here to get started. We have seen a significant increase in the number of families selecting online giving, and we are grateful for the stability this provides our parish finances.

2. Parish Envelopes — If you are not enrolled in online giving and you regularly contribute to offertory at Mass, we encourage you to receive envelopes so we can credit you with your donations. Contact the parish office, and we can assist you.
3. If online giving is not an option for you, and you are not able to attend Mass, you can mail your donation or drop it off at the rectory using the mail slot in the front door. For security reasons, we ask you to not leave envelopes in the external mailbox. Thank you!

For the Reception of Holy Communion: At the direction of the ushers, please make your way to the altar rail and fill in all available spaces. You may stand or kneel to receive. Please do not kneel if it is difficult for you. If you are not able to come forward, please remain in your bench and a priest or deacon will come to you.

Please do not leave purses or other valuables in your bench unattended.

Christmas Collection: Our Christmas collection benefits Clergy Trust, which provides for the healthcare and wellness of the active and senior priests in the Archdiocese of Boston.

Please make all checks payable to Saint Catherine's. The parish will then send one check from all the collections to Clergy Trust.

Our bank will no longer accept checks that are not made payable Saint Catherine's. In order to avoid having your check returned, please make checks payable to Saint Catherine's and include the name of the collection in the memo line if you wish.

Check form for Saint Catherine's parish. The form includes fields for the date, amount, and payee. The payee is Saint Catherine's, and the memo line is Clergy Trust. The form also includes a MICR line at the bottom.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 23

7 a.m. Patrick Garrity
4 p.m. Pasquale Cirillo, Sam and Theresa Cirillo, and Vincent and Mary Acito

Sunday, December 24

Christmas Eve

Monday, December 25

Christmas Day

Tuesday, December 26

6:45 a.m. Emma J. Hourihan

Wednesday, December 27

6:45 a.m. Joseph and Maria and Antero Branco, and the Alves and Sousas Families

Thursday, December 28

6:45 a.m. Bernard and Nora McGrath

Friday, December 29

6:45 a.m. Ernest Campbell

Saturday, December 30

7 a.m. Mary Greene
4 p.m. Martin and Gloria Fitzgerald

Mass Intentions are booked up to three months in advance. We currently are accepting intention requests through March 2024. Please call 781-762-6080 or email parish@stcatherinenorwood.org.

Week of December 24th

The Altar Bread and Wine are offered in memory of Larry and Helen Curley.

The Sanctuary Candles are lit in memory of Larry and Helen Curley.



Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God

And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.

Luke 2:19

On January 1st, New Year's Day, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God. It is not a Holy Day of Obligation this year. Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. on January 1st.

Parish calendars for 2024 are now available at the church entrances. We ask that you please only take one calendar per household until every family that wants a calendar has the opportunity to take one. If there are still calendars left after the New Year, you are welcome to take additional copies. Thank you.

We are happy you have joined us here for Mass today at Saint Catherine's. Our parish is a vibrant community of faith, and we invite you to consider becoming more involved by joining one (or more) of our many parish ministries.



Our Peace and Social Justice Committee runs two major outreach events each year: The Giving Tree during Advent and a toiletry drive during Lent. New ideas are always welcome! Meetings are held on the first Monday of the month, both in-person and on Zoom. All ages are welcome. Please contact Sue Fitzgerald at nasus0825@yahoo.com for more information.



COFFEE AND DONUTS

Every Sunday after the 9 a.m. Mass, parishioners are invited to join us in the



gym for coffee, donuts and fellowship. Want to help out? We are always looking for people to assist with set up and clean up. Talk to Fr. Hynes or email him at fatherhynes@gmail.com.



Choir

Our choirs always welcome new members. There is no tryout and no experience is necessary to join. Our Adult Choir is open to high school

age and up, sings at the 11 a.m. Sunday Mass, and rehearses in the church on Thursday evenings from 7-8 p.m. Our Children's Choir is open to any student who has made First Communion through eighth grade. Children's Choir sings at the 9 a.m. Mass 1-2 Sundays a month and rehearses in the school cafeteria on Thursday afternoons from 2:30-3:30 p.m. See Joe Scolastico for more information, or email musicdirector@stcatherinenorwood.org, or come to one of our rehearsals to learn more.



The Society of St. Vincent de Paul was founded by six college students and an older mentor in 1833. From those humble beginnings, it has grown to become a network of charity encircling the world. Today, more than

800,000 members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul are serving those in need in their own communities in 152 countries.

Poverty and hardship can arrive suddenly, and with no warning. Most of our neighbors in need do not want to ask for help. Members of the Society here in our parish personally visit our neighbors, pray with them, listen to them, and help in any way we can.

If you seek to live your faith through works, to "love God," as St. Vincent de Paul said, "with the strength of your arms..." please consider joining us. Meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. Please contact Peggy Hurley at mahurl78@hotmail.com for more information.

Stand out for Life!

**1-3 PM, December 31st
St. Catherine of Siena Church**

End the year with a bang by joining our December Pro-Life Standout! We'll stand in front of St. Catherine's, right across from Norwood's busy town center, and hold pro-life signs to be seen by those passing by. In addition, we will pray the Rosary, hear from guest speaker Rita Russo, and have time for free pizza and socializing! Signs will be provided. For more information or to sign up, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/39beby6v> or email Gabriel at dionisi@aol.com!

Thinking about becoming Catholic or being more fully received into the Church?

Are you an adult who:

- Is a baptized Catholic who received First Holy Communion but was never Confirmed?
- Is a baptized Catholic who never made other sacraments?
- Is a baptized Christian interested in becoming Catholic?
- Is from another faith or background who wants to learn more about becoming Catholic?

Whatever your experience, we can help you continue your faith journey in the Catholic Church. We invite you to learn more by talking to Fr. Maxwell, who coordinates our adult faith formation programs, either in person or email at frmaxwell@stcatherinenorwood.org.

Are you registered with us?



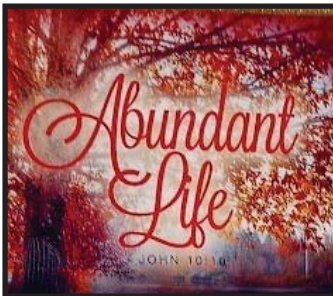
If not, click on this code and fill out the requested fields. It only takes a few minutes. If you have any difficulty, please contact the parish office and we are happy to assist you!

Eucharistic Adoration

Mondays 6-6:50 p.m.

Thursdays after 6:45 a.m. Mass - 5 p.m.

First Friday/Saturday All Night Vigil



Abundant Life is our parish's new pro-life group. The next meeting is on Wednesday, January 10th at 7 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Please join us!

For more information, please contact Rita Russo at rita.a.russo@gmail.com.

Keep in touch with us!

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Do you know any men who drink too much, eat too much, sleep too much, struggle with lust, do not exercise like their body deserves, binge social media, politics or sports, feel isolated, do not have meaningful conversations and are lacking in their relationship with God? Do you know any men who are not satisfied with life; that feel out of control, unmotivated, or less than they desire to be? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, or know a man who would, *Exodus 90* is the answer!

See Fr. Hynes for more details or email fatherhynes@gmail.com. Session begins January 1, 2024.

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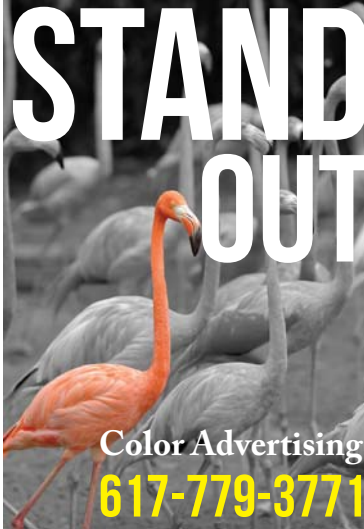
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Fr. Tom Nestor has served as pastor at the Collaborative Parishes of Resurrection and Saint Paul in Hingham for the past ten years, and previously served at St. Eulalia's in Winchester for 17 years. A Harvard graduate and native of West Roxbury, Fr. Nestor is known for fostering a sense of community wherever he goes.

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PreK students delivered Christmas cards to some special people at SCS.



Families spent an evening wrapping gifts purchased for a family adopted through My Brother's Keeper.



Merry Christmas! ~ Girls 5/6 Basketball Team

