

Saint Catherine of Siena Parish Saint Francis of Assisi Parish



Go in peace,
glorifying the Lord
by your lives.

Father Pierre Plante, *Pastor*
Father Richard Friedrichs, *Pastor Emeritus, St. Catherine*
Father John Kiley, *Pastor Emeritus, St. Francis*
Father Francis O'Hara, *Weekend Assistant*
Rev. Mr. John Baker, *Deacon Assistant, St. Catherine*
Sr. Joan Hawkins, SSJ, 401-781-2464

From the Pastor's Desk



Dear Parishioners,

The time has come. This weekend we celebrate the last regularly scheduled Masses at our two parishes of St. Catherine and St. Francis. As of this Thursday, July 1, 2021, the two parishes will merge with SS Rose & Clement Parish. As we have kept you informed, the process of the merger began over four years ago when the Warwick parishes were tasked by the diocesan Office of Planning to develop plans for the future of the city's parishes, given the approaching shortage of priests available to serve as well as the steady decline of lay participation and attendance in the churches. In these past four years several steps in the planning for the city's parishes have been implemented. St. William parish was closed and the property sold. St Benedict parish was affiliated with St. Kevin parish and there are no longer any regularly scheduled weekend Masses at St. Benedict. St Rita in Oakland Beach has been affiliated with St. Timothy. Of course, St. Catherine and St. Francis had already been affiliated seven years ago when I was asked to be pastor of St. Catherine when Father Friedrichs retired. As the planning process continued it was clear that no formal merger of our two parishes would provide a lasting solution that would benefit each and so with much consultation with parishioners who served on the planning committees the request was made to merge the two parishes with SS Rose and Clement. That brings us to where we are today.


Indeed, there is sadness in the closing of our two churches. Each has had a long and proud history and there are many happy memories and some sad and touching ones as well. But what each of us takes with us this weekend is the faith in Jesus that has been nourished and strengthened in these two parishes over the years. It is a testimony to what St. Catherine and St. Francis parishes have meant as well as our family members and fellow parishioners that we take what we have received and bring it with us to whatever parishes we will join.

I encourage you to consider joining SS Rose & Clement as Father Messina and the people of the parish are doing their best to welcome us all. I do realize that some of you will be joining other parishes as they may be closer to you or you may have other ties with them. Whatever, please cherish the faith you have received and be willing to share it with others you encounter in whatever parish you join.

I wish to thank all of those, too many to mention individually, who have helped me in my pastorate at St Francis and then at St. Catherine as well. The past seven years have been a little stressful and sometimes confusing for me as I did my best to serve both parishes, (although it was a little easier seven years ago). Many of you came forward to help in many ways. I thank you for that and I wish you many blessings for your generosity. I do wish to thank Father O'Hara for being such a help with weekend Masses. It allowed me to catch my breath once in a while.

On another personal note, I would like to acknowledge the passing of Father Timothy Gorton who served with distinction as pastor of St. Francis for seven years. I know he still has many friends in the parish who have remained faithful to him in recent years. Many of you knew him as your children were young and attended the parish school which has meant so much to so many over the years. Father was young and enthusiastic and did much good for the parish. I got to know him a bit when I was at St. Mark in Cranston. He was in residence there when he served on the faculty of Our Lady of Providence High School. He was a great conversationalist and story teller, especially about various historical figures. He will be greatly missed. Please keep him, his family and loved ones in your prayers.

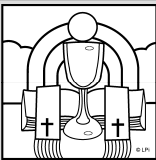
Father Plante

CHURCH  SUPPORT

ST. CATHERINE
SUNDAY, JUNE 20th.....\$1,286.00

ST. FRANCIS
SUNDAY, JUNE 20th.....\$1,234.00

E-Giving donations are included in the weekly totals.
Thank you for your generosity.

 **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

Father Friedrichs
Celebrating 51 years in the priesthood

STAFF DIRECTORY

Claire Gruneberg - Secretary/Bookkeeper, St. Catherine
claire@stcat.necoxmail.com

Julie Cox - Secretary/Bulletin Editor
julie@stcat.necoxmail.com

John Pare - Organist/Music Director

Jim Sullivan - Parish Council President, St. Catherine
jiminri@cox.net

Norma Malachowski -Parish Council President, St. Francis
njm.57@verizon.net





A special thank you to Father Plante. We wish you the best in your retirement.

Thank you, Deacon John. May God bless you in your retirement.



To Our Dear Parishioners of St. Francis,

We want to take a moment to say, Thank You. We have been able to do such wonderful work through our Social Justice Ministry because of your continued support and generosity. I want to share with you what we have been able to do:

1. Food Pantry donations -You helped so many hungry people.
2. Thanksgiving Basket drive -We were able to make 30 baskets for the last 5 yrs.
3. Jesse Tree -So many families & children were able to have Christmas.
4. Adopting a refugee family -Selemani & his 6 children are very grateful for the bedding, clothing,, food & rides to the market every month.
5. Helping Hands Ministry -all the women who knitted & crocheted baby blankets, prayer shawls, & chemo hats.
6. Helping the Homeless -Socks, gloves & blanket drives, to help keep them warm.
7. Mommy Group -moms needing moms, every Tuesday morning for 5 yrs.
8. Annual Baby Shower -helping new moms in need.
9. Bake Sales -delicious baked goods to raise money for the needy.
10. Rosa's Garden -Rosa Boiano, a parishioner, decided to grow a vegetable garden & donate to the food pantry.

*Thank you & God Bless
The Social Justice Ministry,
Donna Gauthier, Sandra Savoie, Sheila Ehrens,
Rita Cunningham, Annette Faye, Judy Healy & Judy Crowley*



PARISH REGISTRATION

All parishioners of St. Catherine and St. Francis are kindly reminded to fill out registration forms for SS Rose & Clement parish that you received in the mail this week. If you did not receive a mailing, you may pick up a form in the back of the churches. Please fill out the form as completely as possible and either mail back to SS Rose & Clement or place them in the collection baskets in our churches. You may continue to use your current budget envelopes until you receive new ones from SS Rose & Clement. If you are planning to join a parish other than SS Rose & Clement, please contact that parish to register.

SS. ROSE & CLEMENT NEWS



Spend One Hour as a Guardian of the Eucharist on First Friday, July 2nd

*We need guardians for each of the hours of adoration between
12 noon and 7PM
at which time Benediction and evening devotions will take place.*

The signup sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the vestibule of the church.

Please consider this prayerful ministry.

*When you look at the crucifix, you understand how much Jesus loved you then.
When you look at the Sacred Host, you understand how much Jesus loves you now.*

St Teresa of Calcutta



SATURDAY: 4:00pm
SUNDAY: 8:00am, 10:30am
MONDAY - FRIDAY: 8:00am
CONFESSIONS: SATURDAYS 3:00pm-3:30pm
OR by appointment
VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT: ssrcr.com



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