



Saint Catherine of Siena

Roman Catholic Church

A Parish of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Hartford

First Sunday of Advent

27 November 2016

Mass/Liturgy Schedule:

Saturday Vigil at 5:00 p.m.
Sunday Masses at 8:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.
(Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day Weekend,
NO 5:00 p.m. Sunday Mass)
Daily Mass at 8:30 a.m., Monday through Wednesday,
and Friday. (Yearly)

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday from 4:00 p.m. until 4:30 p.m.
Monday from 6:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

Baptisms and Baptismal Preparation:

Please call the parish office at 860 658 1642

Sacrament of Holy Matrimony:

Please call the parish office at 860 658 1642 at least
6 months in advance

Choir Practices:

Adult—Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m.
Youth—Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.
Contemporary Music Group—Sundays at 4:00 p.m.

Bulletin Deadline: Monday at 10:00 a.m.

Website News: email to:

StCatherineWebMaster@Comcast.net

265 Stratton Brook Road, Box 184,
West Simsbury, Connecticut 06092
Tel: 860 658 1642 /Fax: 888 297 3134
Email: stcathy@comcast.net
Website: www.stcatherine.info

WELCOME!

We welcome all visitors who are celebrating with us today. As is our custom at St. Catherine of Siena, please remain in your pew for the singing of the **first and last verses** of the recessional hymn.

**Parish Office Hours: Monday-Friday
9:00 a.m. through 2:00 p.m.**

The St. Catherine Parish Legacy Fund is committed to ensuring the long-term stability of our parish and its ministries. Please consider a gift in lieu of flowers upon a loved one's passing as a way to ensure our community will thrive well into the future.

Pastor

The Reverend Michael Whyte, 860 658 1642

PARISH STAFF

Administrative Assistant-Parish Office

*Mrs. Lisa Cerchia
860 658 1642 or stcathy@comcast.net*

Director of Religious Education

*Mrs. Kathi Bonner
860 658 4737 or kathidre@aol.com*

Director of Youth Ministry

*Mrs. Judy Pluta
860 408 9888 or judyplutaym@gmail.com*

Director of Music Ministry

*Mrs. Susan Zybert
860 404 5514 or susanzybert@comcast.net*

Facilities Manager

Mr. Michael Grappone, 860 658 1642

Parish Council President

*Mr. Jim Peters
860 651 3143 or jpetersjjr@gmail.com*

Finance Council Chairman

*Mr. Scott Muryasz
860 693 4164*

Parish Legacy Fund Chairman

Mr. Peter Pabich, 860 408 1254

Parish Lay Trustees

*Mrs. Melissa Horbal, 860 651 7844
Mr. Joseph Capozzoli, 860 352 2390*

Thanks for worshiping with us.

If you would like to join our parish family, fill out a yellow membership form found in the vestibule or atrium and mail it to us, drop it in the collection basket or call us at 658 1642.

***We Welcome You to Our
Family of Faith!***

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS



- Saturday, November 26th @ 5:00 pm Mass for *Nancy Tribou, 7th anniversary*, requested by her family;
- Sunday, November 27th @ 8:00 am Mass for *Finn McCarthy*; requested by *Horrigan Barry Family*;
- Sunday, November 27th @ 11:00 am Mass for *Mary Louise Brady*, requested by the *Women's Club Ministry*;
- Sunday, November 27th @ 5:00 p.m. Mass for *Branden Reyes*, requested by the *Rodriguez Family*;
- Monday, November 28th @ 8:30 a.m. Mass for *Bernard Joseph Lavins*, requested by the *Gaffney Family*;
- Tuesday, November 29th @ 8:30 am Mass *Astra Cerchia, 12th anniversary*, requested by her family;
- Wednesday, November 30th @ 8:30 a.m. Mass for *Special Intention*;
- Friday, December 2nd @ 8:30 a.m. Mass for *Charles Deye*, requested by his family;
- Saturday, December 3rd @ 5:00 pm Mass for *Donald Zele, 5th anniversary*, requested by the *Hammond Family*;
- Sunday, December 4th @ 8:00 am Mass for *Arturo Montenegro*; requested by his family;
- Sunday, December 4th @ 11:00 am Mass for *John Murphy, birthday remembrance*, requested by his family; and,
- Sunday, December 4th @ 5:00 p.m. Mass for *George Duane Martensen, birthday remembrance*, requested by his family.

Offertory Collection

Due to an early bulletin deadline, this week's financial information will be in next week's bulletin.

Next weekend's second collection for Repair & Refurbishment.

Wedding Banns III

**Matthew Dafgek & Ashley Shopey
December 3, 2016**

The St. Catherine Welcome Ministry invites you to join us at the 11 am Mass on Sunday, December 18th to welcome all of our newly registered parishioners for 2016, followed by

Coffee and Donuts in Russell Hall. This is a great chance to meet the newest additions to our faith community.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

No RE classes this weekend, they resume on December 4th.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ALERT! The December 4th Rel Ed classes, K-10 will be an early dismissal, 10:15am so that parents, teachers and students can attend the 11am Mass for the Dedication of the New Altar at St. Catherine of Siena Church. Please put this in your calendar so that catechists are not waiting for the children to be picked up at 10:30am, which would impede their ability to get to this important parish Mass!

Confirmation I & II meet again on Sunday, December 4th. *Remember that the morning classes will dismiss at 10:15am rather than 10:30am so please be on time! The evening classes are not affected by the Dedication Mass and will meet as usual.*

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

MANY THANKS to all the teens involved in Youth Ministry this fall. You have washed cars in gratitude, traveled to Feed the Hungry in Hartford, crafted shoes for children in Africa, baked 60 Thanksgiving pies for area soup kitchens, registered for the Mission Trip, participated in community building and faith sharing on the Teen Weekend Away, attended class dinners and planning meetings, and shared stories of your faith, your hopes and your dreams. Donning your PEACE shirts, you remind us to think about how we can all work together to achieve peace in our homes, our town, our nation and our world. Happy Thanksgiving.

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH MINISTRY

Sunday, December 11th, 6:00 pm, Russell Hall. Join us for an evening of celebration and community building. Please bring a wrapped gift (\$5-\$6 range) for a fun gift swap! Leadership team will be needed tonight for small group work. Pizza will be served.

JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH MINISTRY

Monday, December 12th, 7:00 p.m., Russell Hall. Join us for an evening of Christmas celebration, community building and FUN! Please bring a wrapped gift (\$5-\$6 range) for a gift swap. Pizza will be served!! Hope to see you there.

Upcoming Meetings/Events NOVEMBER-

- Sun, 27th—Advent Wreath Making, RH , 12 Noon
- Sun, 27th—St. Elizabeth House, parking lot, 3:45 p.m.
- Mon, 28th—Confession, Church, 6 p.m.
- Mon, 28th—Welcome Committee, Library, 7 p.m.
- Tues, 29th—Children's Choir Rehearsal, MR, 6:30 p.m.
- Tues, 29th—Adult Choir Rehearsal, MR, 7:30 p.m.
- Wed, 30th—NEW Altar Server Training, Church, 4 p.m.

DECEMBER

- Thurs, 1st—Renew, Library, 10 a.m.
- Sun, 4th—New Altar Dedication Mass & Reception, 11 a.m.
- Sun, 4th—Confirmation I & II, all rooms, 6 p.m.

Catholic Traditions for Advent &

Christmas, *The Issue: How can families better live the spirit of Advent and Christmas in their homes*

The Catholic Church has designated the four weeks proceeding Christmas as Advent, a time to prepare the way of the Lord for His coming as our King and Savior. In addition, the Church teaches that:

[w]hen the Church celebrates *the liturgy of Advent* each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Savior's first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for his second coming. By celebrating [John the Baptists] birth and martyrdom, the Church unites herself to his desire: *He must increase, but I must decrease* (Catechism, no. 524; original emphasis). By participating in various time-honored traditions, such as making Jesse trees or putting on a Christmas play at home, Catholic families can engage more fruitfully in the seasons of Advent and Christmas.

It seems fitting that Advent is the beginning of the liturgical calendar, for it is a season of spiritual preparation marked by an eager longing for the birth of Our Savior Jesus Christ. There are age-old Advent practices, some of which are mentioned in this FAITH FACT, which will help our children and families live closer to Christ. The practices are time-tested and proven. They teach the doctrine of redemption and develop a sense of generosity toward God (cf. Catechism, nos. 2222-26). A family's strong and living faith will become their heritage and a mode to reinforce the religious practices centered in the liturgy. Here are some family traditions you might choose to begin so that you and your family can gain a deeper spiritual understanding of the season and gain more from it:

Advent wreath: The Advent wreath, which has German origins, is probably the most recognized Advent custom. It is a wreath made of evergreens that is bound to a circle of wire. It symbolizes the many years from Adam to Christ in which the world awaited its Redeemer; it also represents the years that we have awaited His second and final coming. The wreath holds four equally spaced candles, the three purple ones lit on the penitential Sundays and a pink one for Gaudete, the joyful third Sunday in Advent. There are many available prayers and hymns found in the reading list that can accompany your personal Advent wreath ceremony. See below for prayers.

The empty manger: Each child may have his own individual manger, or there may be one manger for the whole family. The idea is that when acts of service, sacrifice, or kindness are done in honor of Baby Jesus as a birthday present, the child receives a piece of straw to put into the manger. Then, on Christmas morning, Baby Jesus is placed in the manger. Encourage your children to make Jesus bed as comfortable as possible through their good deeds. In the process, explain Christ's incomparable self-gift at Christmas and Easter that enables us to be part of God's family.

The Jesse tree: The Jesse tree tells about Christ's ancestry through symbols and relates Scripture to salvation history, progressing from creation to the birth of Christ. The tree can be made on a poster board with the symbols glued on, or on an actual tree. For further information Google, *Advent and Christmas in a Catholic Home*.

St. Nicholas Day: The feast of St. Nicholas is on Dec. 6th. It is a highlight of the Advent season. Each child puts

out a shoe the night before St. Nicholas Day in the hope that the kind bishop with his mitre, staff, and bag of gifts will pay a visit. The current Santa Claus is modelled after St. Nicholas, but commercialism has tarnished the true story. Many families give gifts on both Dec. 6 and Christmas. Read about St. Nicholas in your favorite saint's book. Gifts on this day are traditionally candy.

The Christ candle: Any large white candle can be used for the Christ candle. The idea is to decorate it with symbols for Christ. Use old Christmas cards, sequins, holly, etc. The candle can be lit on Christmas Eve to show that the Light of the World has arrived. Then continue to light the Christ candle throughout the year at Sunday dinner to remind your family of our waiting for Christ, as well as celebrating His birth and Resurrection.

The Mary candle: Some families have the custom of decorating the Christ candle with a blue veil on December 8th, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. On this great feast, others place a candle with a blue ribbon before a statue or picture of the Blessed Virgin, whose yes to God enabled our Lords coming at Christmas. The candle is lit during meal times to serve as a delightful reminder of Mary's eager expectation of the Light of the World. It can also serve as a reminder to each family member to keep their own light of grace burning as a preparation for Christs coming.

St. Lucy cakes: The feast of St. Lucy, virgin and martyr, is on December 13th. This marks the opening of the Christmas season in Sweden. Her life story can be found in most saints books, as can the recipe for the traditional cakes. The symbolism is rich and her life story worthwhile reading.

The Nativity scene: This is the event in which the entire family shares setting up the Christmas manger. Mary and Joseph should be far off traveling and their approach to Bethlehem can be adjusted daily. Older children can make life-size Nativity models, carve them, cut them out from cardboard, or set up pre-made figurines. The creative ideas are without limit. Make sure to place the Nativity scene where many can admire the children's efforts to give God glory.

Christmas baking: There are many recipe books available to find great traditional Christmas baking ideas. The baking usually starts around December 20th. As Christmas approaches, the house will smell of baking and fresh wreaths. The glory of Christmas is at hand! Move the manger to a focal point, add lights to the Nativity to be lighted on Christmas Eve, and anticipate together.

Blessing of the tree: More and more frequently families are blessing their Christmas trees. It is good to remind children that the tree relates to many aspects of our faith. For example, we are reminded that our first parents were not allowed to eat from one tree, and that Christ paid the great price for our redemption by hanging on a tree (cf. Acts 5:29-32).

I hope this helps you draw your family into the Season of Advent and be well prepared for the coming of Christ—not only at this blessed time of Christmas but also for the whole year—and for your eternity and that of your beloved family. A blessed Advent and Christmas to all! *Source: Catholic Education Resource Center: for Advent Prayers, Google "Catholic Advent Prayers."*

December 4th and the Altar Consecration

In two weeks Archbishop Leonard Blair will come to our Parish and consecrate our new altar as we put the final touches on our interior renovations to our church. Much planning is underway for the ceremony and it is my hope that our parishioners will attend the 11 a.m. Mass on Sunday December 4.

continued on next page...

Fr. Michael continued.....

A reception in Russell Hall will follow with the Archbishop.

This really will be, for many, a once-in-a-lifetime event. From the Sacred Oil used to bless the altar, the lighting of the fire and incense and the singing of the Litany of the Saints—high ritual and beauty—will remind us of what really and truly happens at each Mass on the altar: mere bread and wine are transformed by God into His Son's sacred Body and Blood and the path to our salvation comes into being. High above the altar hangs our crucifix upon which Christ died for us. As we look upon it, we must come to realize that what really happened on that singular cross more than 2000 years actually and really happened for you/me. That Christ did not just sacrifice Himself for the apostles or for those to whom He was preaching, but that in fact He died for us—you and me.

So I hope you will take the time and come and participate in a Mass that in a special way will have such great meaning for each one of us—beyond the pomp and circumstance, beyond the “smells and bells,” but for our eternal life. Consider yourself invited.

**New Altar Server Training
will take place on Wednesday, November 30th,
4:00-5:00 p.m. in the church with Fr. Michael.
Sign-up sheets are in the atrium.**

SOCIAL OUTREACH

Pantry Partners—The December distribution for SCPP is on Saturday December 17 in the vestibule. Envelopes for donations are in the vestibule and the atrium. Please consider a donation to support the ongoing ministry of providing food to our Simsbury neighbors who are experiencing food insecurity. Thank you for your continued support.

St. Elizabeth House—next service date is today, **November 27th**. Food needs to be ready to serve (casseroles hot, salad pre-cut) and at the church by 3:45 p.m. Questions, please contact Leila Bruno at (860) 392-8585. Thank you!

Sacred Heart Epiphany Party and Giving Tree: On January 8th, Sacred Heart's Religious Education Program is celebrating with an Epiphany Party for the youth of its parish. It is a wonderful event that celebrates the Three Kings with music, food and games. Sacred Heart is committed to engaging their children in the religious education program as long as possible to support them on the path to success. Our Parish is once again supporting Sacred Heart's party. The white tree in the Atrium has gift tags with a child's name and age. There are also some gift tags for monetary donations to purchase the food for the party. Please select a tag and purchase a gift for the child on the tag. **Before January 1st, please place the wrapped gift with the name tag attached under the tree.** We are also looking for volunteers to help at the party and prepare for the event. This is a great opportunity for service hours. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Susan Hoffman at suedhoffman@hotmail.com or 860-716-9005 (cell) or Bonnie Daly at dalyrc@comcast.net. We greatly appreciate your support and generosity.



Make a family Advent Wreath on Sunday, November 27th at 12:00 pm in Russell Hall after the 11:00 am Mass. We'll supply the materials and you will build your original Advent wreath with greens. Please bring a dessert to share.

Sign-up Sheet in the Atrium. Volunteers are needed to help too. Contact Karen or Rich Sickinger at 806-408-1295 or sickfam@comcast.net with any question.



Santa Claus is coming to

town! Please join us in Russell Hall for **Breakfast with Santa** on Saturday, December 10, 2016 from 8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Enjoy breakfast, crafts and a visit

with Santa! This is a free event for the parish. This year, there will be two seatings available. Register exclusively online at www.stcatherine.info. Questions? Please contact Chris.tanski@comcast.net.

WOMEN'S CLUB CORNER

Pewter Ornaments Have Arrived! Prepaid orders are available for pick-up or for purchase by cash or check payable to St. Catherine of Siena. Look for Women's Club representatives to assist you in the Atrium weekend of December 11th after all Masses: Prices will be as follows: \$18 each, 2 for \$34, and 3 for \$45.

Benefit: "Hands of Christ" Awards.

December 8th, Feast Day of the Immaculate

Conception: Join us in praying the Rosary after the 6:30 pm Mass Thursday evening.



The Contemporary Group is looking for singers! Rehearsals are held at 4 PM on Sundays before the 5 PM Mass. If interested, please contact Nicole Levesque by emailing nlevesque625@hotmail.com



The perfect Christmas Gift—A Holy Family Retreat Weekend—Every year the Men's Club Ministry comes together for a weekend retreat at Holy Family in West Hartford. The retreat includes home cooked meals,

inspirational liturgies, uplifting music, free time and workshops. This year's retreat weekend is March 17-19. What a great Christmas or St. Patrick Day's gift. Please contact Lou Daniels for more information at 860.916.3577.



**Our Annual
Advent Giving Program
begins this weekend.**

**Look for the green
Christmas Trees in the Atrium.**

End of Bulletin
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Church: St. Catherine of Siena

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Run #

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