



Saint Catherine

Roman Catholic Church of Siena

A Parish of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Hartford

Fourth Sunday of Advent

18 December 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 jpetersjrr@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 worshipping 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, December 17th @ 5:00 pm Mass for *Paul Finken, 10th anniversary*, requested by his family;
 - Sunday, December 18th @ 8:00 am Mass for *Jean Heller*; requested by Marlyce Rooney;
 - Sunday, December 18th @ 11:00 am Mass for *Jim Neagle, 3rd anniversary*, requested by his family;
 - Sunday, December 18th @ 5:00 p.m. Mass for *Lynda Marie Trumbull*, requested by Bob & Cathy Burns;
 - Monday, December 19th @ 8:30 a.m. Mass for *Mary Lou Laurenza, birthday blessings*;
 - Tuesday, December 20th @ 8:30 am Mass for *Joseph G. Burke, 20th anniversary*, requested by his family;
 - Wednesday, December 21st @ 8:30 a.m. Mass for *Special Intention*;
 - Friday, December 23rd @ 8:30 a.m. Mass for *Corrado Quaranta*;
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- Saturday, December 24th @ 4:00 pm Mass for *Lucia & Anthony Brancato*, requested by their family;
 - Saturday, December 24th @ 6:30 pm Mass *Pro Populo*;
 - Saturday, December 24th @ 10:00 pm Mass *Pro Populo*;
 - Sunday, December 25th @ 8:00 am Mass for *Anthony Drapelick*; requested by the Men's Club;
 - Sunday, December 25th @ 10:00 am Mass for *Peter & Josephine Pac, Jean & Gilbert Hatch*, requested by their family.

***Please note: There is no 5 p.m. Mass on Christmas Day.

Offertory Collection

Weekly Collection:	\$10,497.54
Loose Cash/Checks	\$ 1,426.50
Envelopes	\$ 9,071.04
Cathedraticum*	-\$ 577.37
School Tax*	-\$ 577.37
*Parish taxes (5.5%) paid to the Archdiocese for 526.51 services to the parish.	
Repair & Refurbishment.....	\$...1,570.00(additional)
Retired Religious	\$ 5,022.00



The St. Catherine Welcome Ministry invites you to join us at the 11 am Mass today, 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 parish family.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Confirmation I & II Meet again on Sunday, Dec. 18th. Please remember that our attendance policy says that no more than 2 absences are allowed during the year.

Parish-wide Penance Service on Dec. 19th....details in the calendar.

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Senior AND Junior High Youth Ministry

2017 Winter Into Spring Youth Ministry schedules are now available. You can pick up a copy in the atrium, vestibule, at youth group, or print a copy from your weekly Youth Ministry email.

Have a Blessed Christmas
and a Happy New Year.
See you in January.

Merry Thank-You, "Santa Christine"!

Last Saturday's *Breakfast with Santa* was a grand success! More than 328 people attended along with Santa Claus, of Course—and that is more than double last year's wonderful event. I want to take this opportunity to personally thank Christine Tanski for her ingenuity, organizational and leadership skills, and her love of children causing her to literally pour her heart and soul into this wonderful and most successful parish event.

Christine marshalled more than 50 volunteer Christmas elves to help her pull off a wonderful breakfast, arts-and-crafts station complete with Christmas tree decoration making, individual Santa Mail Boxes to magically carry the children's letters to Santa at the North Pole, face painting and more. And of course our wonderful visit from Santa himself. Thank you, Santa!

So once again thanks to Christine, all her kitchen cooks, youth ministry buffet line servers, youth who manned the arts-and-crafts tables, those who escorted the children onto Santa's chair for a photo and our greeters and welcomers and so many more. Santa told me it was his best party of the season! Fantastic job! And thanks to all who attended.

Advent Week Four

'Holy flying reindeer, Santa'—it's nearly Christmas!

The older I get, the faster things fly by. Here we are about to enter the last week of Advent—thankfully this year the fourth week is a full week at least. But as we approach the Nativity of the Lord and all that comes with these final days of Advent—parties, last minute “forget-me-nots” and more, we cannot lose sight of the true meaning of the season. Sometimes I wonder if I ever really get the meaning...or at least that I get it in time to live out the real meaning of the Season of Christmas during these last days of Advent. Sometimes it is hard to be Christian when you are in long lines and always behind someone who spent the time in that long line not thinking of what they will order at the register but... That is why we have Advent—a time to prepare our hearts—especially and our minds and most assuredly our souls for the “coming of Christ.” That “coming” which we wait for is the memorialization of His Incarnation and birth among us; it is also about His coming in Word and Sacrament at Mass and His coming to earth in and through our words and deeds—and it is about His *Second Coming*—and His gift of Eternal Salvation. And so, the older I grow the more I think about Eternity and where and how I shall spend it.

And as I look around this parish during Advent—and all year long—I see the importance of community—the Spirit of God alive and well through His disciples who “reside” here at St. Catherine of Siena Parish. “Community” and “community building” have become so over used that sometimes they lose their meaning, like Christmas, when we don't always see the Truth which is embedded in them.

Christmas can be lost to secularization: Christmas trees and presents galore, parties and parties, rushing here-and-there and being weighed down with “To Do” lists everywhere. Christmas can be lost when we exchange Christ for “Happy Holidays” or “Winter Festivals.” Here's a hint: if someone says “Happy Chanukah” or “Peaceful Kwanzaa” or whatever else, just offer it back to them. We aren't giving up what we believe when we say one of those greetings but rather we are being Christian by wishing glad tidings and peace in another “language”. And nor should “Merry or Blessed Christmas” be lost for the sole and phony reason of being politically correct. Bah, hum bug!

But in this community of Saint Catherine of Siena I see the Christ of Christmas. I see Christ in the puzzle pieces that floated above the sanctuary and highlighted the many works of charity being manifested in the good deeds of our youth ministry; I see Christ in the men and women who volunteer week-after-week in our religious education program and teach your sons and daughters about belief in God and His Church; I see Christ in those who support our Knights of Malta health care vans and our Neighbors In Need program through the Christmas and Advent Giving Trees; I see Christ in the Pantry Partner volunteers and the St. Elizabeth House cooks and servers reaching out with food to feed and nourish the hungry and forgotten; I see Christ in our Eucharistic Ministers who bring Holy Communion to the sick and frail at home or in hospital; I see Christ in the legions of volunteers who help neighbors with yard work in the Fall's leaf rake; I see Christ those who serve at Mass as ministers of the altar; and I hear Christ in the choir voices who lift up our prayers at Mass; and, I see Christ in those who take up the charge of faith in the works and deeds of the Men's and Women's Clubs, our Prayer Shawl, Thanksgiving Day feasters and every other ministry of this parish. And recently I saw Christ at the Linden

House as good cheer and glad tidings came to and from all who participated, especially the Innkeepers, as we partook of a happy afternoon all for the good of our Pantry Partners food ministry. In all, Christ was made manifest. In all these ministries and in so many other collective and individual acts, we can put “Christ” not only back in Christmas but in the whole year...for “His Church” has always been here, is here and will be here—all the year(s) long, day-in and day-out and God desires nothing more than for you to become part of His community of believers and doers.

May this final week of Advent be full of God's most abundant peace, may He bless you and those you love with His choicest blessings, and may He incline your hearts to seek His Heart and follow His Will now and in the future—right into His Kingdom of unending joy. And... Merry CHRISTMAS!

Advent Giving Trees

Our Advent Giving Tree program is off and running. We are collecting financial donations to support:

- **Neighbors' In Need:** which provides financial assistance to parishioners and Simsbury-area residents who are having a difficult time with skyrocketing grocery bills, heating costs, auto repair bills, shot water heaters and much needed furnace work not to mention assistance with medicine. Your support makes life easier for those in need. In the last few weeks the rectory has seen people calling who have not had hot water for months, a single dad seeking help with food insufficiencies, medical needs for a young child, and a homeless family looking for clothes. And while these needs are only reinforced by the cold weather, the needs remain all year long. Simsbury, believe it or not, is not immune from the realities of the market place or sickness or suffering. Your help is the “antidote” to someone's need. **Thank you!**
- **Malta House of Care:** provides medical diagnosis, treatment and assistance with medical needs for those who have no insurance. Many are “working poor” either without medical insurance due to part time work or those who are working and cannot afford copays or deductibles which come with most plans and certainly with the Affordable Care Act insurance policies. Malta has served more than 40,000 Hartford-area residents in need over the last 10 years and continues to see increasing numbers coming to their mobile van locations. It is hard enough to be diagnosed with heart issues or diabetes or cancer and then to compound that fear with the inability to pay for a doctor and medical care—one can only imagine the stress that adds to an already stressful life. **May God bless you for your care and donation. There is still time to donate; I see envelopes left on our trees.**

A Linden House Thank-You!

A very sincere and personal thank you to all who attended last Sunday's Christmas open house at the Linden House B&B, graciously hosted by innkeepers Julia and Myles McCabe. Thank you!

The house is beautifully decorated room-by-room with festive and cheerful themes of Christmas, the food beautifully laid out in the dining room was delicious and the Christmas treats more than tempting... Thanks to all who took a tour, shared grand company and feasted on the festive decorations...and thanks to our host and hostess for their time, talent and generosity! Free Will offerings were accepted to support St. Catherine of Siena Pantry Partners which provides monthly food blessing boxes to neighbors right here in Simsbury. Thank you!

Get involved: you don't have to do everything...

but everyone should do something!

Upcoming Meetings/Events DECEMBER

Please join-in and come to a meeting of your choice.

- Sun, 18th—Children's Liturgy of the Word, RH, 11 a.m.
- Sun, 18th—St. Elizabeth House, Parking lot, 3:45 p.m.
- Sun, 18th—Confirmation I & II, all rooms, 6 p.m.
- Mon, 19th—Mass at McLean Home, 11 a.m.
- Mon, 19th—Advent Penance Service, 7 p.m.
- Tues, 20th—Children's Choir, MR, 6:30 p.m.
- Tues, 20th—Adult Choir, MR, 7:30 p.m.

- Sat, 24th—Christmas Eve, Masses at 4 p.m., 6:30 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. (Midnight Mass)
- Sun, 25th—Christmas Day, Masses and 8 & 10 a.m.
***No 5 p.m. Mass on Christmas Day

-Mon, 26th—Office Closed, No Confession

- Sat, 31st—New Year's Eve, Mass at 5 p.m.
- Sun, Jan. 1st—New Year's Day, Masses at 8 & 11 a.m.
***No 5 p.m. Mass on New Year's Day

SOCIAL OUTREACH

Pantry Partners—A very special thank you to Miles and Julia McCabe for opening the beautiful Linden House for a Christmas Open House that benefited Saint Catherine's Pantry Partners ministry. We are blessed to have so many generous parishioners that support our work in reaching out to our neighbors, allowing us to provide nourishment through groceries that help sustain them and their families.

St. Elizabeth House—next service date is, today **December 18th**. Food needs to be ready to serve (casseroles hot, salad pre-cut) and at the church by 3:45 p.m. Please sign up in the atrium. 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 and we are supporting them in their endeavor. 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.

WOMEN'S CLUB CORNER

Pewter Ornaments: 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 and Vestibule after all Masses December 17th & 18th: \$18 each, 2 for \$34, and 3 for \$45.

Benefit: "Hands of Christ" Awards.

SAVE THE DATES:

Monday, January 16th Meeting, 7pm RH:

St. Catherine Holy Land Pilgrims provide a narrative pictorial travelogue of their October, 2016 journey. Snow date, if necessary, Wednesday, January 25th.

Thursday, February 9 Valentine-themed Wine

Tasting at Super Cellar Warehouse Liquors, Rte. 44, Avon. "Treat Yourself or Bring Your Favorite Valentine". Details to follow.

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

Are you a SMS Alumni? Do you know someone who is? We Want You! In preparation for our 60th Anniversary Gala on April 21, 2017, we are creating a timeline of the last 60 years and would love any memorabilia, yearbooks, photos, etc. to help us with our research. The Gala will feature a Silent & Live Auction, Raffles, Live Entertainment and Dancing, Come One, Come All!

Please contact: Toni Chagnon [860-658-9412](tel:860-658-9412) or tchagnon@stmarysimsbury.edu for more information or to purchase tickets.

Learn more about how God is with us in the Bible—The Birth of Jesus raises too many questions that just can't be answered in an eight minute homily! If you want to delve deeper into the meaning of God's gift to us at Christmas, consider learning more about our Catholic Biblical School. Contact us, or come to our Celebration of Sacred Scripture on Saturday, March 25 to learn more about how we "roll." The enrollment processes begin in spring, and classes begin in early September. For details, check our website (www.orehartford.org) or contact the Office of Education, Evangelization and Catechesis (catholic.biblical.school@aohct.org, 860-242-5573, ext. 2670.

**End of Bulletin
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