



# Saint Catherine

Roman Catholic Church of Siena

A Parish of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Hartford

The Second Sunday of Advent

December 9, 2018

**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.  
Or by appointment, please call the parish office.

**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](mailto: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](http://www.stcatherine.info) Facebook Page:  
St. Catherine of Siena Parish-West Simsbury CT

## 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](mailto:stcathy@comcast.net)

**Director of Religious Education**

*Mrs. Kathi Bonner*  
860 658 4737 or [kathidre@aol.com](mailto:kathidre@aol.com)

**Director of Youth Ministry**

**Youth Ministry Office**  
*Manuela Hanshaw, 860 658-1642 or*  
[Manuelahanshawym@gmail.com](mailto:Manuelahanshawym@gmail.com)

**Director of Music Ministry**

*Mrs. Susan Zybert*  
860 217-0600 or [susanzybert@comcast.net](mailto:susanzybert@comcast.net)

**Facilities Manager**

*Mr. Michael Grappone, 860 658 1642*

**Parish Council President**

*Mr. Mike Coutinho*  
860 408 1649 or [mikevinda@hotmail.com](mailto:mikevinda@hotmail.com)

**Finance Council Chairman**

*Mr. Scott Muryasz*  
860 693 4164

**Parish Legacy Fund Chairman**

*Mr. Peter Pabich, 860 408 1254*

**Parish Lay Trustees**

*Mrs. Ann Hoffman, 860 651 3887*  
*Mr. Steven Moretta, 860 658 9630*

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 8th @ 5:00 p.m.  
Mass for *Dorothy Conklin*,  
requested by Fay Shea;
- Sunday, December 9th @ 8:00 am Mass for  
*Margaret Nolan-Thibault*,  
requested by Nancy O'Connell;
- Sunday, December 9th @ 11:00 am Mass for  
*Mary Gobeli, 2nd anniversary*,  
requested by the Dennis Hammond Family;
- Sunday, December 9th @ 5:00 pm Mass for  
*Special Intention*;
- Monday, December 10th @ 8:30 a.m. Mass for  
*Walter Bednarz*, requested by  
Nancy O'Connell;
- Monday, December 10th @ 9:00 a.m.  
*Rosary*;
- Tuesday, December 11th @ 8:30 Mass for  
*Mark Farley*, requested Frances Brucker;
- Tuesday, December 11th @ 9 a.m., *Adoration*;
- Wednesday, December 12th @ 8:30 a.m. Mass  
for *Special Intention*;
- Wednesday, December 12th @ 9:00 a.m.,  
*Rosary for Peace*;
- Friday, December 14th @ 8:30 a.m. Mass for  
*Joan Natale*, requested by the Willis Family;
- Friday, December 14th @ 9:00 a.m.;  
*Chaplet of Divine Mercy*;
- Saturday, December 15th @ 5:00 p.m. Mass for  
*Catherine Marie Hourican*,  
requested by her family;
- Sunday, December 16th @ 8:00 am Mass for  
*Shirlee Nevin, birthday remembrance*,  
requested by her family;
- Sunday, December 16th @ 11:00 am Mass for  
*Jim Neagle, 5th anniversary*,  
requested by his family; and,
- Sunday, December 16th @ 5:00 pm Mass for  
*Donald Maguire*, requested  
by Nancy O'Connell.

## Religious Education News

Thank you to our Grade 5 Parent Helpers, Mrs. Czerwinski, Mrs. Kostelni and Mrs. Howard who volunteered to help the 5th Graders decorate, stuff and dedicate the Christmas Stockings for the St. Elizabeth House homeless shelter. We were able to donate over 50 stockings this year due to the generosity of the parents of each 5th grader. A special thank you to Mrs. Lorraine Cosgrove who organizes this giving project every year and we thank Father Michael for coming over to HJMS in between Masses to visit with the children during this service project!

**The Christmas Pageant is coming!** Our Grade 3 Religious Education children will put on our annual Christmas Pageant this year on Saturday, December 15th at 4 pm in the church. All parishioners are invited to attend the pageant before the 5 pm Mass. Based on Luke's Gospel, the children, in costume, will tell of the first Christmas, in Scripture and in Song.

Confirmation I & II Meet again next Sunday, December 16th.

## Offertory Collection

Weekly Collection.	\$10,182.63
Loose Cash/Checks	\$ 1,255.50
Envelopes	\$ 8,927.13
Cathedraticum*	-\$ 407.31
School Tax*	-\$ 407.31
*Parish taxes paid to the Archdiocese for services to the parish.	
Repair & Refurbishment.....	\$3,823.25
Christmas Flowers.....	\$ 535.00(additional)

This weeks' second collection is for Retired Religious.

Thank You!



## Sanctuary Lamp Memorial

This week it burns for a Special Intention.

## Second Sunday of Advent

Advent, as the new beginning of the liturgical year, brings with it a new gospel companion for most of the upcoming year—this year we shall hear from the Gospel of Luke—one of two evangelists, the other being Mark, and Luke’s writings speak to us about the origins and birth of Jesus Christ and of the ministry of John the Baptist.

Luke’s Gospel this weekend speaks to us from the words of Isaiah about “*Preparing the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.*” And with this we are introduced to the ministry of God’s Love, a ministry of repentance and forgiveness.

Advent is a time of preparation in our Church and faith and is meant to lead us to the two comings of Christ: the first, His Incarnation and the gift of His love to humanity; the second is *the Second Coming*, the day of Judgment when our Lord and Savior will break open the gates of heaven and call us to live with Him forever in His glorious Kingdom of peace, joy and happiness.

This Advent period of preparation emanates from the call of John the Baptist to “Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.” We are called to herald the coming of the Lord and to do this in-and-through the ministry of repentance and forgiveness, which in the Catholic Church is a ministry of a dual nature: to offer repentance for our sins and seek the forgiveness of God our Father for ourselves and then, once forgiven, to go out into the world and to forgive others.

The Love of God, given to each of us in the Incarnation of Jesus Christ is a love that is meant for us and to enable us to share it with others (as we are told in the words of the Eucharistic Prayer II: that we minister to God in the ways we minister to others; as we are forgiven, so shall we forgive. As we are blessed, so shall we bless. As we are fed and nourished, so shall we feed and nourish others. Our Catholic faith is not a “self only” opportunity of salvation, but we are called to seek our own salvation by the way then lead others to the Love and the Salvation of Jesus Christ through our proclamation of the Good News of Christ (ministering to others). The Christian faith is meant to be shared in-and-through our lived experience of the faith: the mercy and the love of God.

Advent gives us a time to reflect—and to act—on the teachings of Jesus Christ in-and-through our Catholic faith traditions—how we are called to live out His teachings in the corporal and spiritual works of mercy: in the caring of others who are less fortunate

or ignorant of Christ. Today’s Gospel of Luke places John the Baptist as the precursor of Jesus’ birth and life on earth. We too are we called to proclaim to others (particularly our family, children and friends) our own belief in the Saving Christ. We must also reflect on our own lived-experience of faith: how do I put my faith into everyday life?

As we listen to the Lukan words of John the Baptist telling us about the ministry of repentance and forgiveness of sins, we must wonder ourselves about how we forgive and how we seek forgiveness? Is it unconditional? Is it once-and-for-all, or do we continue to doubt God’s forgiveness of our sins, seeking forgiveness over and over again for the same sin? Do we continue to remind others who have hurt us about that hurt once we’ve said they are forgiven—never putting it behind us? Or do we recall the wise words of many: “that anger and hurt only become an acid that eats at the container that holds it.” Forgiveness is a salve that heals everything, including ourselves.

This Advent let us rejoice in the forgiveness God offers to each of us. Let us seek His mercy, accept it and then with love spread it about to heal the world in which we live. Then, refreshed by God’s mercy and becoming a dispenser of it, let us then focus on the practical

This Advent let us rejoice in the forgiveness God offers to each of us. Let us seek His mercy, accept it and then with love spread it about to heal the world in which we live. Then, refreshed by God’s mercy and becoming a dispenser of it, let us then focus on the practical application of our Catholic faith by living out the spiritual and corporal works of mercy: nourishing those who hunger, forgiving the sinner, giving rest to those who wonder, and comforting those who are hurting and giving joy to the hopeless.

Our Catholic Church has a track record like no other private entity in the world when it comes to offering hope, help and joy to those in need. From parishes that locally feed the hungry, to hospitals that care for the ill of every faith and even those without, to shelters to house the homeless and schools and training centers to educate the ignorant, from the Knights of Malta who go out into the streets and heal the poor and frail, to Catholic Charities, the Archbishop’s Annual Appeal, Catholic Relief Services and so many more. In every corner of the nation and world—through parish, diocesan and order ministries; founded by Christ, the Church continues His mission and ministry in our time and place. And as members of the Mystical Body of Christ—the Church on earth—

*Continued on page 7.*

## YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Thank you to everyone that volunteered to help at Breakfast with Santa! Everyone had so much fun and we really appreciate your help!

**BABY IT'S COLD OUTSIDE**—Youth Ministry will be collecting NEW men's undergarments, including boxers, briefs, white t-shirts and white socks for The Friday Cafe. The Friday Cafe is one of many locations that our teens visit and assist on their Boston Mission Trip. The Friday Care open every Friday 1–5 p.m. is a welcoming space where homeless and housed neighbors can gather and get to know each other. It offers food and coffee, clothing and personal toiletries, rest and resources to people living on the margins – but most importantly, it offers community. **Look for our box in the atrium beginning December 15<sup>th</sup>.**

## SENIOR HIGH YOUTH MINISTRY

Thank you to all of you who submitted applications for the **Boston Mission Trip**. I will accept late applications tonight at our regularly scheduled meeting.

Senior High Youth Ministry meets **tonight, December 9<sup>th</sup> from 6–8:00 p.m. in Russell Hall for our Christmas service project**—Blessings Bags for the Elderly. Also, please **bring a wrapped Christmas gift** (approximately \$5 - \$6 value only) to participate in a fun Christmas gift swap within our group at our Christmas Party! Pizza and cookies will be served.

**Dodgeball tournament** is scheduled for Friday, January 4<sup>th</sup> from 6 -7:30 pm. at St. Mary's Parish Center. Wear your blue youth ministry t-shirt. **WHAT TO BRING:** One pound each of deli meat and deli cheese. We will be making sandwiches for the homeless in Hartford. Pizza will be served.

## JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH MINISTRY

We meet again on Monday, December 10<sup>th</sup> from 7– 8:30 p.m. in Russell Hall. Our Christmas service project—Gratitude Stones—will be enjoyed by our entire parish. After the service project, we will be decorating cookies (including gluten, dairy and nut free cookies if needed). Pizza will be served. Parent volunteers are welcome!

**PARENTS: Please turn in your child's PARISH PHOTO RELEASE FORMS asap.**

## Parishioner's Corporal Works of Mercy & Parish Ministry News

### Pantry Partners

**December 15 is the SCPP Distribution date.** Volunteers are asked to arrive by 8:45 a.m. to assist in set up. This will be our final food distribution for 2018. Thank you to all who have contributed to the continued success of this ministry.

### St. Elizabeth House

**St. Elizabeth House-next service date is Dec. 16th .** 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!**

## FEED THE HUNGRY



The next Feed the Hungry visit to prepare and serve lunch in Hartford will be Saturday, Dec. 22nd leaving St. Catherine at 9:30 a.m. and returning by 1:30 p.m. Teens and adult volunteers are needed. Sign up in the vestibule to reserve your spot. The homeless are always in need of your generosity!

## Advent Devotional Schedule

- Monday, following daily Mass, pray the Rosary;
- Tuesday, following daily Mass join us for Adoration;
- Wednesday following daily Mass pray the Rosary for peace; and,
- Friday following daily Mass The Chaplet of Divine Mercy is prayed.

## Upcoming Parish Meetings & Events

### December

- Sun, 9th – Children’s Liturgy of the Word, RH, 11 a.m.
- Sun, 9th – Lessons & Carols, Church, 2 p.m.
- Sun, 9th – Contemporary Choir, MR, 4 p.m.
- Sun, 9th – Sr. High Youth Ministry, RH, 6 p.m.
- Mon, 10th – Rosary, 9 a.m.
- Mon, 10th\* – McLean Home Mass, 11 a.m.
- Please note: The Mass at McLean Home has been changed to the 2nd & 4th Mondays of each month.
- Mon, 10th – Confession, 6 p.m.
- Mon, 10th – Jr. High Youth Ministry, RH, 7 p.m.
- Mon, 10th – Parish Council, Library, 7 p.m.
- Tues, 11th – Adoration, Church, 9 a.m.
- Tues, 11th – Children’s Choir Rehearsal, MR, 6:30 p.m.
- Tues, 11th – RCIA, Library, 7 p.m.
- Tues, 11th – Adult Choir Rehearsal, MR, 7:30 p.m.
- Wed, 12th – Rosary, 9 a.m.
- Wed, 12th – Advent Bible Study, RH, 9:15 a.m.
- Wed, 12th – Men’s Club, RH, 6 p.m.
- Thurs, 13th – Girl Scouts, RH, 7 p.m.
- Fri, 14th – Chaplet of Divine Mercy, church, 9 am.
- Sat, 15th – Pantry Partners, Vestibule, 9 a.m.
- Sat, 15th – Rehearsal for Pageant, 2 p.m.
- Sat, 15th – Christmas Pageant, Church, 4 p.m.
- Sun, 16th – Children’s Liturgy of the Word, RH, 11 a.m.
- Sun, 16th – St. Elizabeth House, parking lot, 3:45 p.m.
- Sun, 16th – Contemporary Choir, MR, 4 p.m.
- Sun, 16th – Confirmation, All rooms, 6 p.m.
- Mon, 17th – Rosary, 9 a.m.
- Mon, 17th – Parish Penance Service, Church, 7 p.m.
- Tues, 18th – Mom’s at Mass, 8:30 a.m.
- Tues, 18th – Adoration, Church, 9 a.m.
- Tues, 18th – Children’s Choir Rehearsal, MR, 6:30 p.m.
- Tues, 18th – Adult Choir Rehearsal, MR, 7:30 p.m.
- Wed, 19th – Rosary, 9 a.m.
- Wed, 19th – Advent Bible Study, RH, 9:15 a.m.
- Wed, 19th – Contemporary Choir, MR, 7 p.m.
- Fri, 21st – Chaplet of Divine Mercy, church, 9 am.
- Sat, 22nd – Feed the Hungry.
- Sun, 23rd – Children’s Liturgy of the Word, RH, 11 a.m.
- Sun, 23rd – NO 5 p.m. Mass.
- Mon, 24th – NO 8:30 a.m. Mass/NO McLean Home Mass.

Christmas Eve Masses,  
4 p.m.; 6:30 p.m. & 10 p.m.

Christmas Day Mass, 10 a.m.

**FINAL REMINDER!** Please join us for **"Lessons & Carols"** December 9th at 2 p.m. in the church. Reception will follow in the atrium.

A BIG Thank you to all the ladies who helped put the parish Christmas cards together for mailing:

Alice Ardenski, Maryellen Bailey, Eunice Brimmer, Lois Hines, Eileen Landi, Lisa Spencer, Sarah Monteleone & Stella Richardson.

Great job, ladies and Thank you!

**The Christmas Pageant is coming!**

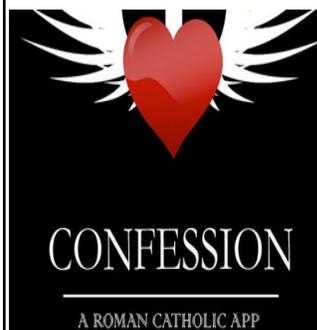
Our Grade 3 Religious Education children will put on our annual Christmas Pageant this year on Saturday, December 15th at 4 pm in the church. All parishioners are invited to attend the pageant before the 5 pm Mass. Based on Luke's Gospel, the children, in costume, will tell of the first Christmas, in Scripture and in Song.



**Our Advent Penance Service will take place on Monday, December 17th**

**at 7 p.m.**

**There will be three priests available for confession.**





**Baby, It's Cold Outside**

St. Catherine of Siena Youth Ministry  
is collecting new undergarments to  
give to the homeless

**PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING:**

New briefs

New boxers

White socks

Undershirts

*Sizes medium to 3XL*

**DECEMBER 15th - 23rd**

*Collection box will be located in the atrium*

Thank you in advance for your donations!

*Please join us in congratulating*

*Xiomara Rivera &  
Michael Urbaninati*

*who were married at  
St. Catherine of Siena  
on  
November 30 2018.*

*Fr. Whyte continued.....*

you and I are called to continue the "chain-link fence" Christ began: from age-to-age and beyond. And it all beings with repentance and forgiveness!

### **Knights of Malta Medical Mobile Van**

The Knights of Malta Mobile medical van and staff will be here at Saint Catherine of Siena this weekend to highlight their medical ministry to the working poor and vulnerable in the greater Hartford-area. Take a walk-through and meet some of the staff. Hear about the amazing work they do in Christ's name to care for the sick. Recently the Knights of Malta treated their 50,000<sup>th</sup> patient in the Hartford metro area-in a city of about 125,000 residents that is an amazing milestone. *The Knights of Malta are part of our Advent Giving Tree ministry. Please take an envelope off the trees and make a generous donation to help support them as part of our parish's Advent Giving program. Thank you!*

### **The Women's Club Ministry Presents Our 2018 Saint Catherine of Siena Guardian Angel Christmas Ornament Fundraiser for our annual "Hands of Christ Award".**

*Purchase the same Angels that will be adorning the Christmas trees in the Church Sanctuary this Christmas season.*

*Ornament with ribbon, fabric-lined presentation box and tag. \$6.00 for single purchase; \$5.00 a piece for multiples. Look for Women's Club representatives in the Atrium after all Masses, December 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup>, December 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>.*



### **Around Our Archdiocese of Hartford...**



### **Please Join Us!**

Friends, neighbors and supporters of **Family Life Education**

are invited to join us

for a Happy Hour Open House on Tuesday, December 18th, from 5-7 p.m. Celebrate the season with wine, cheese, light desserts and refreshments, entertainment and raffles. Stop by for 20 minutes or two hours to support our work of and enjoy a relaxing evening. The event is \$35 (**advanced registration encouraged**) and will take place at the Louise Earle Loomis Children's Wellness Center.

**Donations Accepted**-If you would like to donate to our raffles or event, we will gladly accept! Items may include bottles of wine, gift cards, platters, or your time and talents to provide event entertainment. Maybe you're the star of a handbell choir and want to show off your skills, or know the best way to make a great holiday drink-and of course monetary donations are accepted. Please contact Patrick Byrne at 860 231-7744 x 24 for more information.

**"Help is needed!** In order to decorate the church for Christmas, we need two men to help on Friday, Dec. 21st from 9 am-10 am to move some of the larger boxes into the church, and on Sunday, Dec. 23rd from Noon-1:30 pm to move ladders, boxes of poinsettia's and hang garlands and heavy wreaths.

**Please contact the parish office at [stcathy@comcast.net](mailto:stcathy@comcast.net) so that we can confirm the details via email. Thanks!**



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