



A Parish of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Hartford

The Baptism of the Lord

January 12, 2020

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:

 $\underline{StCatherineWebMaster@Comcas}t.net$

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 Facebook Page: St. Catherine of Siena Parish-West Simsbury CT

ELCOME!

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 Faith Formation

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

Director of Youth Ministry Youth Ministry Office

Manuela Hanshaw, 860 658-1642 or Manuelahanshawym@gmail.com

Director of Music Ministry

Mrs. Susan Zybert 860 217-0600 or susanzybert@comcast.net

Facilities Manager

Mr. Michael Grappone, 860 658 1642

Parish Council President

Mr. Mike Coutinho 860 408 1649 or mikevinda@hotmail.com

Finance Council Chairman

Mrs. Jennifer Orzell 860 729-1079

Parish Legacy Fund Chairman

Mr. Peter Pabich, 860 810 5069

Parish Lay Trustees

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

> 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.

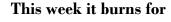
We Welcome You to Our Family of Faith!

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS



- Saturday, January 11th @ 5:00 p.m. Mass for William O'Keefe, requested by Pat & Ed Pabich;
- Sunday, January 12th @ 8:00 am Mass for Mary H. McDermott, requested by the King Family;
- Sunday, January 12th @ 11:00 am Mass for Jim Sullivan, birthday remembrance, requested by his family;
- Sunday, January 12th @ 5:00 pm Mass for Grade 8 Class;
- Monday, January 13th @ 8:30 a.m. Mass for John Moran, requested by the Murphy-Zink Family;
- Tuesday, January 14th @ 8:30 a.m. Mass for Judith Ondek, requested by Jack Lyons;
- Tuesday, January 14th @ 9:00 a.m. Adoration;
- Wednesday, January 15th @ 8:30 a.m. Mass for Special Intention;
- Wednesday, January 15th @ 9:00 a.m. Rosary;
- Friday, January 17th @ 8:30 a.m. Mass for Wedding Blessings for Chris & Lili Pass, requested by the Hubbard Family;
- Friday, January 17th @ 9:00 a.m. Chaplet of Divine Mercy;
- Saturday, January 18th @ 5:00 p.m. Mass for Dick Hammond, 9th anniversary, requested by his family;
- Sunday, January 19th @ 8:00 am Mass for John Monteleone, 6th anniversary, requested by his family;
- Sunday, January 19th @ 11:00 am Mass for Maddie Haas, requested by the Jahne Family; and,
- Sunday, January 19th @ 5:00 pm Mass for Terri Bouquillon, 1st anniversary, requested by her family.

Sanctuary Lamp Memorial



Avelia Fusco, 103rd birthday blessings,

requested by her family.

Offertory Collection

\$@@@@@@@@@@@@@@

Weekly Collection. \$12,193.16 **Loose Cash/Checks** \$ 1,229.16 \$10,964.00 **Envelopes** Cathedraticum* 487.73

*Parish taxes paid to the Archdiocese for services to the parish.

School Tax*

Christmas......\$ 150.00(additional)

498.73

Solemnity of Mary.....\$2,124.00

End of year tax statements will be available in two weeks. If you'd like one please email stcathy@comcast.net or call 860-658-1642.

Upcoming Parish Meetings & Events

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January

- -Sun, 12th—Children's Liturgy of the Word, RH, 11 a.m.
- -Sun, 12th—Steubenville Parent Mtg, Library, 12 Noon.
- -Sun, 12th—Children's Choir, MR, 4:30 p.m.
- -Sun, 12th—Grade 8 Class Mass.
- -Mon, 13th—Mass at McLean Home, 11 a.m.
- -Mon, 13th—Confession, Church, 6 p.m.
- -Mon, 13th—Parish Council, Library, 7 p.m.
- -Mon, 13th—Jr. High Youth Ministry, RH, 7 p.m.
- -Tues, 14th—Adoration, Church, 9 a.m.
- -Tues, 14th—Children's Choir, MR, 6:30 p.m.
- -Tues, 14th—RCIA, Library, 7 p.m.
- -Tues, 14th—Adult Choir, MR, 7:30 p.m.
- -Wed, 15th-Rosary, Church, 9:00 a.m.
- -Wed, 15th—Texas Hold'em, RH, 6:30 p.m.
- -Fri, 17th—Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Church, 9:00 a.m.
- Sat, 18th—Pantry Partners, Vestibule, 9:00 a.m.
- -Sun, 19th—Children's Liturgy of the Word, RH, 11 a.m.
- -Sun, 19th—CMG, MR, 4 p.m.
- -Mon, 20th—Confession, Church, 6 p.m.
- -Mon, 20th—Plan Mtg, Growing Catholics, Lib., 7:30 p.m.
- -Tues, 21st—Adoration, Church, 9 a.m.
- -Tues, 21st—Children's Choir, MR, 6:30 p.m.
- -Tues, 21st—Adult Choir, MR, 7:30 p.m.
- -Wed, 22nd—Rosary, Church, 9:00 a.m.
- -Wed, 22nd—Youth Ministry, RH, 6:00 p.m.
- -Thurs, 23rd—Growing Catholics, RH, 7 p.m.
- -Fri, 24th—Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Church, 9 a.m.
- -Fri, 24th—Youth Ministry, RH, 5:30 p.m.
- -Sat, 25th—Feed the Hungry.
- -Sun, 26th—Children's Liturgy of the Word, RH, 11 a.m.
- -Sun, 26th—Coffee & Donuts, 9.am. & 12 noon.
- -Sun, 26th—Living your Faith, Library, 12 noon.
- -Sun, 26th—St. Elizabeth House, parking lot, 3:45 p.m.
- -Sun, 26th—Children's Choir, MR, 4:30 p.m.
- -Sun, 26th—Confirmation, all rooms, 6 p.m.
- -Sun, 26th—Confirmation Parent Mtg., Church, 6:15 p.m.

In Gratitude

As the Christmas season comes to a close with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord—and we return to Ordinary Time until Lent—I want to take a moment and some space to express my sincere appreciation to everyone who participated in making the Church look, feel and sound so beautiful during our Christmas celebrations:

Flowers and decorations—there are many people who give of their time and talent to see to it that the church, atrium, vestibule and Russell Hall are bedecked to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord. From the flowers that surround and enlivened the sanctuary, the Christmas Trees, wreaths and garland, to the welcoming, greetings and music. I need to thank Janet Fischer, Ale Palomo, Kathy Moore who makes and cares for the altar linens, Marghan Pendergast, Bernie Slattery, Barbara Hopkins, Terry Longo, Marlena Snecinski, Mike Grappone, Juan Palomo, Matias Palomo, Matthew Harvill, Christopher Harvill, and Will Pendergast—and Julia McCabe who did a broad in-store and on-line search for the perfect white doves on the wreaths for all the beautiful decorations.

Music and Musicians—Susan Zybert, our music director, under who's leadership we hear beautiful and always appropriate selections of sacred hymns and Christmas songs at all of our liturgies, comprised of hours and hours of planning work and musical practices with the choirs and cantors, and musicians. The choir members—adult, children and contemporary—themselves and musicians such as trumpeter Dan Luddy, violinist Michael Winer, percussionist Ed Wrobel, flautist Andrea Wlochowski, accompanist Mercedes Featherstone and leader and accompanist Nicole Levesque for the uplifting music and songs

Altar Servers, Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors and Ushers—who in harmony bring about the smooth expression of the Rites of the Mass. It is important that for the Mass to be fully expressed as offered by Christ and His Church we have well-trained and committed servers—and St. Catherine of Siena is abundantly blessed in this important celebration. If mentioned by name I'd need two more pages...

The Liturgy Committee—a wonderful group of committed lay people who throughout the course of the year and in all the Seasons of the Church plan and execute the Sacred Rites that comprise our liturgical celebrations. Their time and talent throughout the year is greatly appreciated: Kathi Bonner, Susan Zybert, Janet Fischer, Bernie Slattery, Barbara Hopkins, Ale Palomo, and Marghan Pendergast.

Our Parishioners—who attend the Masses, support the Church with their treasure as well as their time and talents make this a vibrant and growing parish, a parish that is alive in it's praise and worship, both in Word and deeds, to give honor and glory to God. I wish I could name you each—but then the bulletin would become a "weighty tome" and might come across as a wee-bit prideful.

Thank you one-and-all for picking up the mantel of Baptism, for being a disciple of Christ and for being a partner in God's Plan of Salvation, enabling His Love to unfold in your marriages, families, our community and beyond! Blessings for a grand 2020!

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

Today we conclude, with Vespers, the Christmas Season's and begin our entrance into Ordinary Time, where the color green replaces the white vestments of Christmastime and all the flowers and the colorful explosion of festivities that is Christmas. In this last feast of Christmastime, we hear in the words of Isaiah the importance of the call of Baptism—and Isaiah's ancient words should both resonate with us today and be of equal if not greater applicability to our modern lives.

In our first reading we hear these powerful words from the prophet: "I, the LORD, have called you for the victory of justice, <u>I have grasped you by the hand</u>; I formed you, and set you as a covenant of the people, a light for the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners from confinement, and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness."

In this we hear that our God is connected to us and holds us, as the prayer goes, "in the palm of His hands." For us today, we can take this meaning to extend to the Sacrament of Baptism, where we know that on that day of the Sacrament God is not loving us for the first time but that He already knows us—and loved us—before we were formed in our mother's womb. But on our baptism, we are given an indelible mark, a supernatural grace from God that enables us, when formed in faith especially by our parents and family that we able to freely choose to

Continued on page 6.

Faith Formation News

Confirmation II PARENTS-our Confirmation date has been set by the Archdiocese as Saturday, April 25th, at 11 a.m. at our parish. Mandatory rehearsal is on Thursday, April 23, from 7 pm -8:30 pm. Sponsors are not required to attend rehearsal but should plan on attending the Sunday, March 15th Class with their Confirmation Candidate. This class will take place at St. Catherine of Siena from 7-8:30 p.m. in Russell Hall.

CONFIRMATION PARENT MEETING is Sunday, January 26th at 6:15 p.m. in the Church. Parents will attend class with their son or daughter immediately following the parent meeting,

7:15-8:30 p.m.

Child Lures Program will be presented to Grade 1 & 2 children and parents on today, Sunday, Jan. 12th at HJMS cafeteria from 9:30 am-10:30 am.

Grade 8 Mass is today, Sunday, **January**, **12th** at 5 pm. All 8th graders are expected to participate in this Mass as part of the Faith Formation curriculum. All students should gather at the church no later than 4:30 p.m. to rehearse. Please remember to bring a non-perishable food item for the food pantry that feeds our own neighbors.

Parent Coffee Cafe is open on Sunday, Jan. 19th at HJMS cafeteria! Come and visit with old friends and new!

FIRST COMMUNION PARENT **MEETING** is Sunday, Jan. 26th in the cafeteria at HJMS at 9:30 am. At least one parent is required to attend but both parents are welcome.

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Contact Manuela Hanshaw, Director of Youth Ministry (Email: Manuelahanshawym@gmail.com)

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH MINISTRY TWO EVENTS:

STEUBENVILLE EAST CONFERENCE INFORMATIONAL MEETING

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12th, at 12:00 noon immediately following the 11:00 Mass in Russell Hall. Join us for a brief informational meeting to find out more about the teen STEUBENVILLE EAST CONFERENCE this summer. This conference is open to ALL high school students including graduating seniors and rising freshman (current 8th graders). Meet and speak to our panel of teens that have attended this conference! An inspiring weekend of music, fantastic speakers focused on issues in the life of teenagers, faith and worship. Conference begins FRIDAY, JULY 10th through SUNDAY, JULY 12th, and registration opens January 15th. Spots fill quickly! If you are new to the trip, please attend with one parent.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12th-DODGEBALL TOURNAMENT AND MAKING SANDWICHES FOR THE HOMELESS, 6:30-8:30 p.m. ALUMNI INVITED! A friendly competition with St. Mary's youth ministry and other youth ministries from churches around town. Wear your youth ministry t-shirt. St. Mary Catholic Church on Hopmeadow Street. ADMISSION: one pound of deli luncheon meat or deli cheese to make sandwiches for the homeless. If you don't want to play, join us to make sandwiches, some crafts, and to cheer your friends on. Pizza served. SUNDAY, JANUARY 12th-DODGEBALL

JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH MINISTRY MONDAY, JANUARY 13th, 7:00-8:30

p.m. in Russell Hall-STEPPING INTO THE NEW **YEAR!** What are your new year resolutions for this year? Join us for a fun evening and see how you can stick to your resolutions. Pizza served.

Winter/Spring Calendars for 2020

are available for pick up

in the atrium and vestibule.

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

Pantry Partners

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Saint Catherine Pantry Partners will meet on Saturday, January 18th for the monthly food distribution. Volunteers please plan to arrive by 8:45 a.m. to assist in set up.

FEED THE HUNGRY

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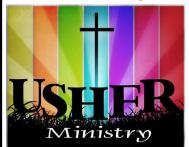
The 2020 schedule for the Feed the Hungry Ministry is now available in the Atrium. The next visit to St. Elizabeth House will be on Saturday, January 25th. We leave St. Catherine at 9:30 am and return by 1:30 pm. Please sign up! If you have any questions call or text Rich Sickinger at 860.558.6940.

St. Elizabeth House

St. Elizabeth House-next service date is Sunday, January 26th. 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!

The **Usher Ministry** needs additional Lead Ushers to cover the Masses, particularly the 11 a.m. & 5 p.m. on Sundays. If you would like to join please contact: Steve Cerchia fscerchia@gmail.com. C 860 478 9560.

This is an important and rewarding Ministry



within our Parish community. Training will be provided. Of course if you are interested in the Sunday, 8 a.m. & the Saturday, 5 p.m. that would be welcome as well.

PARISH HAPPENINGS

GROWING CATHOLICS
UPCOMING EVENT

Join our Growing Catholics group on
January 23rd at 7 p.m. in Russell Hall for
drinks, snacks and an exploration
into the cultivation of relationships
led by parishioner, Kathleen Mangiafico

GrowingCatholicsCT@gmail.com
with questions.

<u>INNINNNNNNNNNNNNNNN</u>

MEN'S CLUB EVENTS

Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament

will be held on Wednesday evening January 15th, 6:30 p.m. in Russell Hall. All adult parishioners are invited—bring along a friend or neighbor. Pizza, wine and beer will be served. Tournament will



follow. Please sign-up with Tom Lonergan, txlone@cox.net, for an accurate headcount. See you there!

SAVE THE DATES:

-March 13th-15th, Annual Retreat at Holy Family. Three-day price all inclusive \$325. Christmas pre-sale \$250 per Person (still in effect). Open to all. For more information please contact Steve Cerchia @860.478.9560, fscerchia@gmail.com, or Tom Lonergan, 860-413-9604, txlone@cox.net. To register, holyfamilyretreat.org/themed-retreats -Monday, June 1st for the Annual Golf Outing at

Hop Meadow Country Club for the first time! Golf, cart, lunch and dinner \$175 per person. Christmas pre-sale price (still in effect) \$160 per person. Open to all. Proceeds go to fund other ministries and our Church picnic. For more information call Kevin Frazier at 860-712-0764 or Lou Daniels at 860-916-3577.

Fr. Michael continued. ..love God back through the way we "minister to Him as we minister to others." (EPII) God holds our hands.

Holding hands can be both reassuring and uncomfortable. Think of the first time you held your date's hand or when you were unexpectedly asked to hold someone's hand during the Our Father at Mass? Or, think back to when you were a little child and someone grasped your hand to walk you across a busy street or along the route to school? One is oddly uncomfortable, the other very reassuring. Now think how our loving God takes hold of our hands, walks with us on our faith journey, calls us to be His adopted daughter or son, and invites us to partner with Him in carrying for one who is hungry and without food, wandering without shelter, or feels abandoned in the midst of loss and grief. Isaiah reminds us that God is with us—He is Emmanuel, God with us until the end of the age.

Today the Lord Himself is baptized by John and the Holy Spirit—God anoints Him and calls Him to spread the Gospel of Salvation to the whole world (known world at that time) and now with the gift of Baptism given to us all, as we are now called—by Baptism—to spread the gift of salvation, the Good News of the Gospel to our known world—in our time and place.

How do we understand the Sacrament of Baptism? What is its meaning in our faith and to what are we commanded to do? From my personal experience as a priest, for some it is a ritual, basically cute and something done to please "nana or gampy or mom or dad—or maybe to make sure the child can one day be married in the Church." For many it is a deeply spiritual and meaning Sacrament meant to enable the child to one day grow closer to God and to serve God in-and-through the Church so that the gift of eternal life is made more real (not that we "earn" heaven but that in choosing and following Christ we align our wills to His Will and so carry out His righteous mission in our families, the Church and community. In the Acts of the Apostles reading today we hear Peter instruct us that the Word of God sent to Israel informs us "...that beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him." Indeed God was (is) with Him and He is with us after our baptism, we are also called to "do good" in His Name by following His teachings given to us in Baptism and from our parents, who truly form us in the Faith. At the end of the Rite of Baptism, the priest concludes the ritual with three (3) brief prayers, the first two (2) are over the parents and end with the parents being reminded that "they are the first of teachers in the ways of faith, and may they be the best of teachers by what they say and do." This is how the family, comprised of a mother and father, are so important as they represent the fullness of God, both male and female, and from each we learn different yet vital things which make us fully human. And being fully human we are then, with God's Divine Grace, are able to accept the challenge of faith and in the "doing good" by our lives we image the fullness of God Himself. Baptism—something amazingly powerful and enrichingsomething eternally important.



SAVE THE DATE! Parenting Expert John Rosemond Feb. 22nd & 23rd!

St. Catherine of Siena Church will be hosting

nationally known author, syndicated columnist, and family psychologist John Rosemond! He has authored over 18 books on parenting, family life and faith and has had a nationally, syndicated parenting column for over 35yrs. His common-sense advice has gained much credibility with today's parents who are sick of techniques and methods that don't work.

Parenting with Love and Leadership, 2/22nd 7-8:30 p.m. & Parenting the Strong-Willed Child:
Obedience Made Easy, 2/23rd, 1-2:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$10/pp per event. On-line registration will become available the weekend of January 11th at https://stcatherine.info. For more information, contact Kathleen Mangiafico at mangiaficok@gmail.com.





STUDY GUIDE TO JOHN PAUL II'S LETTER TO WOMEN

This is perhaps our most popular and foundational study for women first experiencing Endow. Answering many questions for modern Catholic woman, this letter, written for the occasion of the 1995 Fourth United Nations Conference on Women, acquaints us with the thoughts of Pope St. John Paul II and is a good introduction to the Christian concept of woman and her indispensable role in the Church, the family, society, and the world.

For more information contact Tricia Henderson at triciamontgomery@gmail.com

The 9th Annual MLK in Simsbury Celebration Monday, January 20th at 2:00 p.m. First Church of Christ, 689 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury

Enjoy this beautiful observation of MLK's life and legacy, including his time spent in Simsbury. The program will include readings, prayer, reflections, & music.

Keynote Speaker: United States Congresswoman Jahana Hayes

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

For more information, please contact John Hampton at 860.803.4072 or at jkhampton@hotmail.com.



Around Our Archdiocese of Hartford...

The Divine Mercy Holy Hour will be celebrated at St. Ann's in Avon on Sunday, January 19th from 2:30-3:30 p.m. The recitation of the rosary for the sanctity of all human life will follow. Please join us for these powerful devotions.

Xavier Open House-Xavier will open its doors once again to prospective families on Jan. 30th for an open house from 6-7:30 p.m. We are looking to give students who are in seventh grade a head start on the admission process and pick up a few more applications from eighth graders who may just be hearing about Xavier and the possibilities that await them here. Come see what Xavier offers and have some one-on-one time with teachers and coaches. Get a feel for why current students and graduates routinely say Xavier changed their lives and that their teachers and coaches truly cared, always willing to spend extra time with them.



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