

KICKOFF WEEKEND: FEB. 25-26, 2023



HIS SACRIFICE,
and ours!

2023 ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL



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WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS



- **Saturday, February 25th @ 5:00 p.m.** Mass for *Anne Millham*, requested by *Colby & Anita Thresher*;
- **Sunday, February 26th @ 8:00 a.m.** Mass for *James Moore*, requested by the *DiMaio Family*;
- **Sunday, February 26th @ 11:00 a.m.** Mass for *Rich Mingus*, requested by the *Eileen Keller*;
- **Monday, February 27th @ 8:30 a.m.** Mass for *Alfeu Andrade*, *birthday remembrance*, requested by his family;
- **Tuesday, February 28th @ 8:30 a.m.** Mass for *Alexandra Adams*, requested by *Myles & Julia McCabe*;
- **Tuesday, February 28th @ 9 a.m.** *Adoration*;
- **Wednesday, March 1st @ 8:30 a.m.** Mass for *Dick Hopkins*, requested by the *Reilley Family*;
- **Wednesday, March 1st @ 9:00 a.m.** *Rosary*;
- **Friday, March 3rd @ 8:30 a.m.** Mass in *Muriel Michaud*, requested by the *Neureither Family*;
- **Friday, March 3rd @ 9 a.m. & 7 p.m.** *Stations of the Cross*;
- **Saturday, March 4th @ 5:00 p.m.** Mass for *Judy & John Champa*, requested by *Rosann & Phil DiMartino*;
- **Sunday, March 5th @ 8:00 a.m.** Mass for *Deceased members of the Able Family*, requested by the *Shanley Family*; and,
- **Sunday, March 5th @ 11:00 a.m.** Mass for *Eileen & Bill Adams*, *birthday remembrance*, requested by the *Taylor Family*.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION:

Thank you for your financial support of our parish! In these uncertain times, it is my hope that our parish provides to you both spiritual support and practical support—*Catholic Action*—by feeding our neighbors, investing in our children and youth, and keeping all of our parish's stakeholders in the 'Spiritual Loop', if you will! We are able to livestream the Masses, provide unique and creative Faith Formation, Youth Ministry; we are able to continue our 6 ministries which feed, care and provide assistance to our neighbors in need—because of your generous and continuing financial support. Without it, our doors would close and our programs would be reduced.

*Thank you for parishioners like you!
Thank you for using both our online Faith Direct
services or for mailing your envelope to:
Post Office Box 184, West Simsbury, Conn. 06092*

Weekly Loose Cash/Checks:	\$ 4,263.33
Faith Direct weekly giving:	\$ 4,183.77
Total:	\$ 8,447.10

Other Generous Giving	
Various	\$ 115.00

Upcoming Parish Meetings & Events

February

- Sat, 25th—Men's Club, RH, 8:30 a.m.
- Sat, 25th—Confession, Church, 4 p.m.
- Sun, 26th—*Faith Formation*, K-8, 9:30 a.m.
- Sun, 26th—Children's Lit. the Word, RH, 11 a.m.
- Sun, 26th—St. Elizabeth House, prkng lot, 3:45 p.m.
- Sun, 26th—Confirmation, all rooms, 6 p.m.
- Sun, 26th—Conf. Parent Meeting, Church, 7:30 p.m.
- Mon, 27th—Confession, Church, 6 p.m.
- Tues, 28th—Adoration, Church, 9 a.m.
- Tues, 28th—Children's Choir, MR, 6:30 p.m.
- Tues, 28th—Adult Choir, RH, 7:30 p.m.

March

- Wed, 1st—Rosary, Church, 9 a.m.
- Wed, 1st—Prayer Shawl LESSONS. 6:30 p.m., RH-B.
- Wed, 1st—Lead Usher Meeting, Church, 7 p.m.
- Thurs, 2nd—Bereavement, RH- A & B, 10 a.m.
- Thurs, 2nd—Women's Ministry, RH, 7 p.m.
- Fri, 3rd—Stations of the Cross, Church, 9 a.m.
- Fri, 3rd—Stations, Church, 7:00 p.m.
- Sat, 4th—Confession, Church, 4 p.m.
- Sun, 5th—*Faith Formation*, K-8, 9:30 a.m.
- Sun, 5th—Children's Lit. the Word, RH, 11 a.m.
- Sun, 5th—*Homebound Communion*, 12:30 p.m.
- Sun, 5th—Sr. High YM, RH, 6 p.m.

Sanctuary Lamp

In memory of

Joan Chrosniak,
birthday remembrance,
requested by her family.



First Sunday in Lent: Saying No to Evil

Genesis, our first reading, (2:7-9; 3:1-7), tells us of the creative power of God: *He created human beings. He created the Garden of Eden, with all the trees of beauty and food for life. He created Wisdom (Truth). We see the good created by God.*

Genesis also tells us that while the good, formed by the Wisdom or Truth of God, exists for benefit of humanity, evil, which is formed in the absence of God, is meant to tempt humanity and to provide untruth or misinformation as a counter to the Truth. As we see in the story of the serpent and the woman in the Garden, Free Will is a gift from God, how we use it comes down to faith. This story, in essence, is a story about humanity's willingness to make bad personal choices when the choice to respect and seek the excellence of others would be the better choice.

In our second reading from **St. Paul to the Romans**, St. Paul speaks about Original Sin, which came through Adam and impacts all generations, and the Righteous Act of Christ, which also impacts all peoples—for the good; and, finally Free Will—and the desires of the human person.

In the Matthean (4: 1-11) Gospel this weekend, we hear about the Temptations of Jesus in the desert. The introduction begins with “At that time Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry. The tempter approached and said to him, “If you are the Son of God...” and Jesus shall be tempted three times: first to turn stones into bread, second to throw Himself down from the parapet of the temple, and finally to tempt the Lord God by praising something other than God Himself. In all these temptations, the devil tells the Lord that God will provide...if He is the Son of God. In the end, Jesus tells the Evil One to ‘Get away, Satan!’

What wonderful readings for Lent and especially appropriate for our culture today.

We live in a world where, according to the daily news stories, evil is a popularly chosen and lived experience. Nightly the news covers senseless murders at colleges, elementary schools, movie theaters, work places, and bars to offer a sampling. Corruption reigns as the pensions of the elderly are stolen, and government appropriations are spent not on intended projects and programs but rather go to bureaucratic whims. And anger has become the fuel of cancel culture and politics—all meant to divide rather than unite. In all these things, common denominator is Free Will or one's own choice.

So shall we listen to the “serpents” du jour spewing out enticing lies and misinformation on numerous subjects, or will we choose Truth and be motivated to act in accordance with Righteousness? The act of Free Will should require us to make a choice based on a well-formed conscience, formed in Truth and facts, not emotions. Will we begin our search for Truth in faith? Will we seek the Word built upon Love and the search for the excellence of others (all) or will we go for the heated words hoping to raise emotions and lead us, like the serpent did to Eve, to seek the self or become a “god” herself? May the Word of God and His Grace and Love instill in us the desire to go for Truth.

St. Joseph Medal of Appreciation 2023

I nominated parishioner Craig Taylor to receive the archdiocesan 2023 St. Joseph Medal of Appreciation and Archbishop Leonard P. Blair has confirmed this nomination, which shall be bestowed at the Cathedral of St. Joseph on March 19, 2023 at 3 p.m. Our parishioners are invited to attend.

The annual award is given by the Archdiocese to parishioners who provide service to the Church at the parish level, distinguishing themselves in one or more ministries or programs or other form of service to God and His Church.

Craig entered into full communion with the Roman Catholic Church in 2015, through the RCIA, having been baptized a Protestant as a child. He has been a faithful parishioner attending Mass with his wife and son each weekend, is currently a lector, has been involved in our pre-Covid Breakfast with Santa events and post-Covid Santa's Birthday Party for Jesus; he was a founding member of the Catholic Action Works ministry, and is the prime mover behind our Lenten and Advent parish calendars, which illustrate the liturgical and ministerial life of our parish during these two seasons, and He heads up our Constant Contact marketing and communications for our many parish ministries, programs, and events. His organizational, writing and marketing skills are key to the communication successes in our parish. Thank you, Craig, for all your hard work!

St. Catherine of Siena
Faith Formation Class Calendar 2022-2023
Zach Wood, Director; zwood@stcsimsbury.org; 860-658-4737.

Feb. 26th K-8 & Confirmation I & II, Confirmation Parent Mtg, 7:30 p.m.
Mar. 5th K-8
Mar. 10th Grade 8 Living Stations of the Cross/Church
Mar. 12th K-8 & Confirmation I & II
Mar. 17th Grade 3 Stations of the Cross/Church
Mar. 19th K-6, & 8, *Grade 7 Class Mass, Grade 7 Class in RH.*
Mar. 26th K-8 & Confirmation I & II
Apr. 1st First Communion Family Day
Apr. 2nd K-8, Confirmation Interviews
Apr. 23rd *Confirmation at St. Joseph Cathedral in Hartford, 2 p.m.*
May 6th First Holy Communion, 11 a.m.

Saturday Morning Men's Club Ministry Gathering.... Coffee and conversation.
All are invited. **Saturday morning February 25, Russell Hall.** Coffee and bagels start at 8:30 a.m.
Short devotional followed by a brief meeting.

SAVE THE DATE: The dates for the Men's Retreat at Holy Family are rapidly approaching. Our Parish's dates are **March 17th-19th.** This year's theme is *Come away and rest awhile/A Missing Peace.* Details of the cost, retreat details and registration information are on the website: www.holyfamilyretreat.org under themed retreats. If you have any questions please contact Steve Cerchia, fscerchia@gmail.com, 860-478-9560 or Tom Lonergan, txlone@cox.net, 860-817-2921.

Lead Usher Meeting on March 1st, 7 p.m. in the church. Father Whyte will hold a meeting all Lead Ushers and any men and women interested in becoming a Lead Usher. At the meeting procedures will be reviewed for current Lead Ushers and this is a great opportunity for anyone interested in joining as a Lead Usher to attend. A complete description of the Ushers duties can be found at stcatherine.info. Any questions please contact Steve Cerchia, fscerchia@gmail.com or 860 478 9560 or Eileen Landi at (860) 490-5472 or eileenlandi@gmail.com.

St Catherine's Women's Ministry -All women of the parish are invited to participate and attend any of the gatherings and events. Save the Dates for....

Faith & Fellowship Gatherings

1. March 2nd -The Four Women Doctors of the Church. A discussion based on the book "*Women of Hope*" by Terry Polakovic.

Service Ministry

Please join us for either or both of the following:

1. March 7th from 1:30-2:30 p.m. at The Residence at Brookside in Avon for singing with the residence. Remember the good ol' songs like "Take me out to the ballgame"? Come sing along. Please sing up with the sign up genius. <http://bit.ly/3Rsk90X>

BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY -Our Bereavement Ministry meetings for March will be held on Thursdays- March 2nd, 16th, and 30th from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. in Russell Hall. All people of faith are welcome!

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Senior High

SUNDAY, MARCH 5th, 6-8 p.m. in Russell Hall for IT ONLY TAKES A MINUTE—Join us for a relaxing evening out with friends, and **BEWARE!** This challenge may only last a minute! Pizza will be served. We will also be assembling **EASTER BASKETS** for children. **PLEASE BRING donations for Easter Baskets** for children—see sign up for donation suggestions. **Confirmation Service Hours available. Please register for this evening using this link: <http://bit.ly/3lwTW5D>**
INVITE A FRIEND TOO.

SUNDAY, MARCH 12th, 9:30 am in Russell Hall—BOSTON MISSION TRIP TEAM—Pre-Trip Meeting followed by 11 am Mass. Please arrive on time so that we can begin promptly at 9:30 a.m.

Junior High

MONDAY MARCH 6th—IT ONLY TAKES A MINUTE in Russell Hall from 6:30-8 pm. Join us for a relaxing evening out with friends, and **BEWARE!** This challenge may only last a minute! Light refreshments will be served. We will also be preparing **EASTER BASKETS** for children. **PLEASE BRING donations for Easter Baskets** for children—see sign up for donation suggestions. **INVITE A FRIEND TOO!** Please register for this evening using this link: <http://bit.ly/40Q5f99>

Follow us on Instagram at [stcatherine_youthministry](https://www.instagram.com/stcatherine_youthministry)

Lenten Reminder...Check our Lenten Calendar for each day's activities in the parish. Remember that Friday mornings at 9 a.m. and Friday evenings at 7 p.m. our parish hosts the Stations of the Cross, a Catholic Lenten tradition. This Friday our Stations of the Cross shall be led by the youth of our parish. Begins promptly at 7 p.m. and over at 7:30 p.m.



The Bible Blueprint A Lenten Study

Do you ever wish you had a "hearing aid" to clarify God's voice speaking in your heart? It's been said that when we pray, we are talking with God BUT when we read the scriptures it is God talking with us.

The Bible is God's Word, and we can encounter God's voice more clearly in the Bible by engaging the tools of Scripture through study and prayer.

Join me, Lou Daniels this Lenten Season as we walk through how to better understand and embrace God's word and better understand His book!

Wednesday's @ 9:30 AM Russell Hall – 3/8, 3/15 & 3/22

OR

Saturday's @ 9:00 AM Russell Hall – 3/11, 3/18 & 3/25

*****Bring your Bible or a Bible will be provided***

WARM HANDS, WARM FEET A YOUTH MINISTRY COLLECTION

Youth ministry is collecting new socks, gloves and new or gently used sweatshirts/hoodies to distribute to the homeless on our Boston Mission Trip. If you are able to help, please leave your donations in the boxes in either the Atrium or the Vestibule. **Donations can be dropped off until Monday, March 13th.** Thank you in advance for your support.

St. Elizabeth House

We are now able to return to in-person meal service for the residents at St. Elizabeth House in Hartford. All volunteers **MUST** be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. For those not fully vaccinated, we appreciate your service in the form of purchasing or preparing food to serve.

Our next service date is Sunday, February 26th.

Please sign up at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F44ADAD2DA64-stelizabeth31>

MARCH STREET SANDWICH MINISTRY

Our Street Sandwich collection is early this month due to the timing of the Youth Ministry Boston Mission Trip. Our collection will take place on **Saturday, March 11th, Sunday, March 12th, and Monday, March 13th.**

Sandwiches can be dropped off Saturday or Monday morning from 8-9:30 am, and Sunday from 9-6 pm. A sign up quantity of 1 means 12 sandwiches, or 1 dozen. A sign up of 12 means 144 sandwiches.

Sandwiches of any kind are needed-sub rolls, bread, pita bread, wraps, filled with deli meats/cheese of any kind, tuna salad, chicken salad, or any kind of protein such as PB&J. Please **NO CONDIMENTS OR LETTUCE.**

Please be sure all sandwiches are individually wrapped (foil, baggies, or cellophane) and deliver to the kitchen **using the outside kitchen entrance (near the garage/shed).** If you are able to help make sandwich please use this sign up genius link:

<https://bit.ly/3KsRPdh>

Confirmation hours available.

FEED THE HUNGRY Lunch

Service on March 11th. Please sign up by **Weds, March 8th.** We've shared every ounce of hot food we've prepared and gave away every sandwich in our last 2 visits. Can you volunteer? There are 3 ways to help:

1. **Serve Lunch In-Person:** Carpool from St. Catherine's at 9:45 am to St. Elizabeth's House in Hartford. At the shelter we will serve a meal for residents as well as for other food insecure guests. We will be done by 1:00 p.m. and return to Simsbury afterwards.

2. **Prepare a hot dish.** We'll supply the ingredients for you to make a hot dish at home for us to bring to Hartford. Pick up the ingredients on Thursday, March 9th at Fitzgerald's and drop off the hot meal to Russell Hall kitchen on Saturday, March 11th between 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. We'll contact you ahead of time with recipe information if you haven't done this before.

3. **Make sandwiches:** Please see the weekly bulletin "Street Sandwich Ministry" section to sign-up.

Sign Up at:

<https://bit.ly/FTHLunchMar18>

Questions? Contact Rich Sickinger at 860-558-6940. richsickinger@gmail.com

ALL VOLUNTEERS MUST HAVE THE COVID-19 VACCINATION. We serve a vulnerable population and our priority is to 'protect them and our volunteers as well.

Pantry Partners!

The next distribution date for Pantry Partners will be **March 18th.** This ministry provides fresh fruit, vegetables and protein over families in the community. Thank you so much for your continued support!