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Saint Catherine

Roman Catholic Church of Siena

A Parish of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Hartford

Second Sunday of Easter

April 16, 2023

Mass/Liturgy Schedule:

Saturday Vigil at 5:00 p.m.

Sunday Masses at 8:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

Daily Mass at 8:30 a.m., & Livestreamed, 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. in Russell Hall.

Youth—Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Music Room.

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 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 designated 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: Reverend Michael Whyte, 860 658 1642

PARISH STAFF

Administrative Assistant-Parish Office

Mrs. Lisa Cerchia

860 658 1642 or stcathy@comcast.net

Faith Formation Director,

Mr. Zach Wood, 860-658-4737,

zwood@stcsimsbury.org

Director of Youth Ministry

Youth Ministry Office

Mrs. 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. Christopher Berg, 860 658 1642

Sacristan

Mr. Michael Grappone, 860 658 1642

Parish Council President

Mrs. Kathleen Mangiafico, 860 869 8468

Finance Council Chairman

Mrs. Jennifer Orzell, 860 729 1079

Parish Legacy Fund Chairman

Mr. Peter Pabich, 860 810 5069

Parish Lay Trustees

Mrs. Colleen Langlais, 860-508-0487

Mr. Robert Hensley, 860-916-5057

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, April 15th @ 5:00 p.m.** Mass for *Dick Hopkins*, requested by the *Gorecki Family*;
- **Sunday, April 16th @ 8:00 a.m.** Mass for *John & Theresa Murphy*, *wedding anniversary remembrance*;
- **Sunday, April 16th, @ 11:00 a.m.** Mass for *Greg Collins*, requested by the *Helitzer Family*;
- **Monday, April 17th @ 8:30 a.m.** Mass for *Megan Stoesser*, requested by *Ben & Marilyn Winiarski*;
- **Tuesday, April 18th @ 8:30 a.m.** Mass for *Bill Connors*, *birthday remembrance*, requested by his family;
- **Tuesday, April 18th @ 9 a.m.** *Adoration*;
- **Wednesday, April 19th @ 8:30 a.m.** Mass for *Marilyn Doucette*, requested by *Mary Ellen & David Bailey*;
- **Wednesday, April 19th @ 9:00 a.m.** *Rosary*;
- **Friday, April 21st @ 8:30 a.m.** Mass for *Leonard Ianzito*, *birthday remembrance*, requested by his family;
- **Friday, April 21st @ 9:00 a.m.** *Chaplet of Divine Mercy*;
- **Saturday, April 22nd @ 5:00 p.m.** Mass for *Teresa & Bob Montano*, requested by *Rosann & Philip DiMartino*;
- **Sunday, April 23rd @ 8:00 a.m.** Mass for *Frank & Diane Rozwadowski*; *8th & 2nd anniversaries*, requested by their family, and,
- **Sunday, April 23rd @ 11:00 a.m.** Mass for *James Hall, Jr.* *18th anniversary*, requested by his family.

Sunday, April 23rd @ 2:00 p.m.
CONFIRMATION at
St. Joseph Cathedral.

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:	\$ 8,770.00
Faith Direct weekly giving:	\$ 4,144.54
Total:	\$ 12,914.54

Other Generous Giving

Easter	\$ 7,537.00
Various	\$ 1,678.00

Upcoming Parish Meetings & Events April

- Sat, 15th—Pantry Partners, Vestibule, 9 a.m.
- Sat, 15th—Feed the Hungry
- Sat, 15th-Mon, 17th—Street Sandwiches, Kitchen
- Sat, 15th—Confession, Church, 4 p.m.
- Sun, 16th—Children's Liturgy, RH, 11 a.m.
- Sun, 16th—Sr. High Youth Ministry, RH, 6 p.m.
- Mon, 17th—Prayer Shawl, RH-B, 3:30 p.m.
- Mon, 17th—Confession, Church, 6 p.m.
- Mon, 17th—Parish Council, RH, 7 p.m.
- Tues, 18th—Adoration, Church, 9 a.m.
- Tues, 18th—Children's Choir, MR. 6:30 p.m.
- Tues, 18th—Prayer Shawl, RH-B, 6:30 p.m.
- Tues, 18th—Adult Choir, RH, 7:30 p.m.
- Wed, 19th—Rosary, Church, 9 a.m.
- Wed, 19th—Women's Bible Study, RH, 9:15 a.m.
- Wed, 19th—Jr. High Youth Ministry, RH, 6:15 p.m.
- Wed, 19th—Women's Bible Study, Church, 7 p.m.
- Fri, 21st—Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Church, 9 a.m.
- Sat, 22nd—Confession, Church, 4 p.m.
- Sun, 23rd—Coffee & Donuts, 9 a.m., 12 noon.
- Sun, 23rd—Children's Liturgy, RH, 11 a.m.
- Sun, 23rd—CONFIRMATION, Cathedral, 2 p.m.
- Sun, 23rd—St. Elizabeth House, prkng lot, 3:45 p.m.
- Mon, 24th—Confession, Church, 6 p.m.
- Tues, 25th—Adoration, Church, 9 a.m.
- Tues, 25th—Children's Choir, MR. 6:30 p.m.
- Tues, 25th—Adult Choir, RH, 7:30 p.m.

Sanctuary Lamp

In memory of
Ann & Joe Kirby, anniversary,
 requested by their family.



The Second Sunday of Easter: Choice and Free Will

At the Vigil Mass of Easter, which we celebrated on Holy Saturday night, we welcomed a new catechumen—a 18-year old man to be Baptized—and 6 candidates, those already baptized and now to be welcomed fully into the sacramental life of the Church through Confirmation and First Holy Communion. They came into the Church through a program called RCIA, the *Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults*.

The RCIA program is one of study and conversation about the teachings of Jesus Christ in-and-through His Church; it is about Church History, the sacraments, and the role of faith in everyday life to name a few. Once those instructed in the faith through RCIA receive baptism, confirmation and Holy Communion, then they come to a period known as Mystagogy, which comes from the Greek word meaning, “**to lead through the mysteries.**” The Catechism describes mystagogy as “a liturgical catechesis that aims to initiate people into the mystery of Christ” (CCC 1075). It is a time of further study through additional conversations but also primarily through the Sunday Mass readings. This year, Year A, our readings give us the First Letter of St. Peter (second readings), which is a perfect instructional course for this Mystagogy period that ends at Pentecost, coming of the Holy Spirit or the “birthday of the Church”.

This period of mystagogy comes to us as our parish celebrates well the Mass, with music, Word and reverence, i.e., the acknowledgement of sacred space; and, the righteous practice of our faith as a community—by way of instruction through our faith being brought to life in the daily activities of life. Moreover, by way of individual care and compassion offered to all.

St. Peter tells us in today’s second reading of the value of our faith as gifted to us in Christ; how precious it is—more valuable than precious stones and jewels, undefiled and retained in Heaven, and, that it too is something that might cause us suffering in everyday life. Today’s second reading suffering points to that for Thomas in the Gospel, by way of doubt or unbelief. This is something that afflicts all of us; I am sure, from time to time. How then, are we to deal with the suffering of faith” in both our personal lives as well as our collective life as a nation?

Clearly, one challenge of our faith calls us to be formed well in the faith, meaning to really know what we believe. It is not easy, nothing worth knowing is—it takes interest, desire and effort. To be well versed in faith is to understand the meaning and purpose behind the “Thou shalt nots...” What does Christ mean by forgiveness? What does He mean by going deep into the waters of faith? He does not call us to follow the whims of the day, with the twists and turns of culture, which are founded on “wants and desires,” but rather Christ calls us to know and count on Truth. And so we get back to perhaps one of the most striking and loving gifts of God: Free Will.

As I have said from time to time in homilies, God loved us so much He not only gave us human life, our families, the wonderfully created earth and universe, the gift of human love, the power of a mind and conscious; but He gave us the ultimate gift of Divine Love, which is illustrated in Free Will. To choose Him or not. To follow the Lord or to follow some other human leader. He formed us in Truth and then said, “You choose...”

Yet, Free Will may causes suffering in everyday life. We too can choose to follow the righteous way or the not so righteous way: Good or evil, convenience or truth, temporary happiness or Eternal Joy. It is, as the saying goes, “up to me.” In the words of Consecration at the Eucharistic prayer, we hear at every Mass, “...Poured out for you and for many...” as not all will choose Him. Let us remember Judas for, it is not God who turns people away from Eternal Happiness!

Free Will was given in love and we are called to exercise our free will not directed by law(s), but rather emanating in love from the heart—always freely choosing to do the noble good, “the righteous thing.”

In today’s modern and divisive world, one prime example of the gift of Free Will is the discussion of abortion, the killing of innocent human life. For a human egg and human seaman cannot become anything but human. But, and again that is a very important word, it cannot be God’s hope that our understanding of human life is the end result of a law, but rather that it is formed out of love for the righteous. That the human mind steeped in Truth understands the noble good of the sacredness of human life. It is a big discussion for sure. But, there is that word again, it must be had and had honestly, well formed in Truth, and with a compassionate and caring heart.

May a new, honest and hope-filled conversation come about on this important topic outside of the divisive and mean-spirited political arena, rather in the midst of science and Faith, which tells us how things work and faith, which tells us why they are.

Continued on page 6.

St. Catherine of Siena

Faith Formation Class Calendar 2022-2023

Zach Wood, Director; zwood@stcsimsbury.org; 860-658-4737.

Apr. 23rd **Confirmation at St. Joseph Cathedral in Hartford, 2 p.m.**
May 6th **First Holy Communion, 11 a.m.**



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Our April monthly meetings will be held on Monday, April 17th at 3:00 p.m. and Tuesday, April 18th at 6:30 p.m.. Come to one or both! We will meet in Russell Hall-B. Hope to see many of you there! To request a prayer shawl or lap blanket, please contact Kathy Oaks at ktoaks@gmail.com or 860-614-2773.

Women's Ministry upcoming events: All are welcome!

LIVING IN THE FATHER'S LOVE BIBLE STUDY began on April 12th & will continue for 5 Wednesday, 9:15 a.m. and 7 p.m. Contact Michelle Page at pagekoe@gmail.com for details and to purchase the book.

Calling All Seniors: Come enjoy Breakfast and live music on Monday May 8th at 9:15 a.m. in Russell Hall. Connect with friends and treat yourselves to a hot breakfast. Please be our guest. The Women's Service Ministry invites all Seniors. Please sign up using the sign up genius.

<https://bit.ly/41QJ4jw> . Hope to see you there. Questions or comments, contact Diane Whittemore at 860-913-02412, whittemorediane@yahoo.com.

St. Catherine of Siena Bereavement meetings will be held on Thursday, April 13th and April 27th. All people of faith are welcome. Meetings held in Russell Hall from 10:00 am to 11:30 am.



Men's Evening Retreat

What comes to mind when you think of a "holy person?"

Please join the men of St. Catherine of Siena parish as we reflect on what being "holy" really means. This evening retreat will be led by Monsignor Joseph Donnelly, and all are welcome.

Where: Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center, 303 Tunxis Rd. West Hartford.

When: Wednesday, April 26, at 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. Dinner and beer tasting included! (offering \$50). **To Register online:** holyfamilyretreat.org or call 860.521.0440. Questions or if need a ride, or would like to carpool, please call Lou Daniels 860.916.3577 or LMDaniels57@gmail.com.

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Senior High

THIS SUNDAY, APRIL 16th - HOT DOGS, GAGABALL, AND PEEPS from 6-8 p.m. The end of the year is approaching, so let's take some time to just relax and have some fun! We'll provide the dogs, and all the sides and fixings. You come prepared to play and join us for our **PEEPS COMPETITION**.

Invite a friend to join us too. To register, please use this link: <http://bit.ly/3ZI3jn1>

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26th—STEUBENVILLE CONFERENCE ZOOM INFORMATIONAL MEETING—All high school teens including graduating seniors and rising freshmen) are invited to attend this amazing teen conference. Conference dates: **Friday, July 21st (leave at 2 p.m.) and return mid-day Sunday, July 23rd**. Steubenville is national conference created exclusively for teens, where thousands of Catholic teens gather to experience energetic speakers, amazing music and powerful praise and worship and so much more. This 3-day weekend helps to strengthen faith and deepen relationships in the context of fun, friendship, music and faith. Please join our **ZOOM MEETING at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 26th to learn more about this trip. Registration closes May 24th.**

TO JOIN THE MEETING:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84458262914>

Meeting ID: 844 5826 2914

SUNDAY, APRIL 30th—SCAVENGER HUNT ON HOPMEADOW Think Amazing Race! **5—8 p.m.** and bring your phones! We will begin at St. Mary's with pizza for dinner. Wear your sneakers and comfy clothes. We will be traveling up and down Hopmeadow Street using clues as you go on the Hunt! **PARENT VOLUNTEERS ARE DEFINITELY NEEDED FOR THIS EVENING!** To register, please sign up using this sign up genius link: <http://bit.ly/3md6WOx>

SUNDAY, MAY 7th - SENIOR CELEBRATION AND TRIBUTE - ALL SENIOR HIGH YOUTH MINISTRY IS INVITED AND ENCOURAGE TO COME! Please plan to join us from 6-8 p.m. to celebrate this end of year dinner for all youth ministry, and to honor all our graduating seniors. This event is our last of the season, and one where we want to celebrate and honor the achievements of our graduating seniors from youth ministry. Help us to recognize them at this dinner in their honor. **We invite and encourage ALL of youth ministry to attend!** You may not know them, but they have been an important part of youth ministry, our friends, our leaders and more, so we hope you will celebrate with us! Please use this sign up genius link to register: <http://bit.ly/41e5Y3h>

Junior High

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19th—APRIL COOK AND BAKE from 6:15-8 p.m. in Russell Hall. This is the last of our Cook and Bake's for this season, so we hope you will join us tonight as we prepare dinners for local families that are food insecure or in need. **NO COOKING EXPERIENCE** is necessary. We provide the recipes, ingredients, and step-by-step instructions. **PARENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.** Light snacks provided and Confirmation service hours available. Please use this sign up genius link to register for this evening: <https://bit.ly/3Kue1Uf>

SAVE THE DATE: MONDAY, MAY 8th—END OF YEAR PICNIC AND OUTDOOR GAMES

Follow us on Instagram at [stcatherine_youthministry](https://www.instagram.com/stcatherine_youthministry) and check out our pictures.

Comitas is a parish ministry created to give parishioners/families nutritional support and to allow them to focus on other important needs such as bereavement or recovery from illness. Comitas volunteers receive occasional requests for help in providing meal assistance to and can choose to assist if it works with their schedule to the family in need.

Please consider joining this amazing volunteer ministry. What's needed? A desire to cook and help out. No meetings. All is handled online. Prayerfully consider joining the 20+ year ministry.

If you are in need of support or know someone in need of meal assistance help, please reach out to the office or to Karen Corriveau at stcathycomitas@gmail.com.

Fr. Michael continued...

A Hearty Thanks!

To all who participated in the bringing about of the Triduum and Easter Masses, services, programs and parties: **Thank You Very Much!**

For the preparation of the Lenten and Easter Calendar, I thank Craig Taylor. For the wonderful flowers and decorations of Easter and the Alleluia Party, Ale Palomo and family. For the Alleluia Party's planning, organizing and execution, Kathleen Mangiafico. For the music at all the Masses, services, and celebrations, Susan Zybert et al (our choirs, musicians), For the excellent work as planner and master of ceremonies at the Triduum and Easter Vigil, Lou Daniels; and for all the backdoor work of our sacristan, Mike Grappone. In addition, to the staff of our parish! Moreover, of course, to the parishioners who came and gave praise and glory to God!

Parishioner's Corporal Works of Mercy & Parish Ministry News

Pantry Partners!

Thank you to the volunteers who assisted with Saturday's food distribution. Through the generosity of our parishioners and partnership with Super Foodtown in New Hartford, we are able to provide fresh food for 20 families in the community. Thank you for your continued support of this ministry!

FEED THE HUNGRY Lunch Service on April 15th.

There are 3 ways to help:

1. Serve Lunch In-Person: We will carpool from St. Catherine's at 9:45 a.m. 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 should be done by 1:00 p.m. and will 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, April 13th at Fitzgeralds and drop off the hot meal to Russell Hall kitchen on Saturday, April 15th between 8:30-9:30 a.m. We'll contact you ahead of time with the recipe information if you haven't done this before.

3. Make sandwiches: Please see the weekly bulletin "Street Sandwich Ministry" section to sign-up to make sandwiches that we will bring to Hartford for this visit. Sign Up at

<https://bit.ly/FTHLunchApr15>

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

THIS WEEKEND -

STREET SANDWICH MINISTRY

Our April Street Sandwich Ministry collection is scheduled for this weekend - **Saturday, April 15th, Sunday, April 16th, and Monday, April 17th.**

Sandwiches can be dropped off Saturday and Monday mornings from 8-9:30 am, and Sunday from 9-6 pm on that weekend. 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.**

Please deliver individually wrapped sandwiches (foil, baggies, or cellophane) to the kitchen **using the outside kitchen entrance (near the garage/shed).** If you are able to help make sandwiches, please use this sign up genius link: <http://bit.ly/3KdetWS>

Confirmation hours available.

YES YOU "CAN"

Located in St. Catherine's kitchen

Thank you for your ongoing support of our food pantry. We continue to look for donations of: **coffee and tea, tomato sauce, bags of rice, cereal, and canned meat (tuna, chicken and spam).** All donations can be delivered using the kitchen entrance. Our pantry is open to all from 9 a.m.-6:00 p.m., but not available during Mass.

St. Elizabeth House

We have returned to in-person meal service for the residents at St. Elizabeth House in Hartford. **Our next service date is Sunday, April 23rd. Please sign up at:**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F44ADAD2DA64-stelizabeth33>