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Saint Catherine

Roman Catholic Church of Siena

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 23, 2023

A Parish of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Hartford

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, July 22nd @ 5:00 p.m. Mass for **Raymond Burns**, requested by **Carmen & Teri Mascaro**;
- Sunday, July 23rd @ 8:00 a.m. Mass for **Lyn Cunningham**, requested by her family;
- Sunday, July 23rd @ 11:00 a.m. Mass for **Michael Conway**, requested by Parish Council;
- Monday, July 24th @ 8:30 a.m. Mass for **Betty Mahoney**, requested by **Dottie O'Meara**;
- Tuesday, July 25th @ 8:30 a.m. Mass for **Matthew McNally**, requested by the O'Bryan Family;
- Tuesday, July 25th @ 9 a.m. **NO Adoration**;
- Wednesday, July 26th @ 8:30 a.m. Mass for **Max O'Meara**, requested by **Maryellen & David Bailey**;
- Wednesday, July 26th @ 9:00 a.m. **Rosary**;
- Friday, July 28th @ 8:30 a.m. Mass for **Bridget Treanor**, requested by **Myles & Julia McCabe**;
- Friday, July 28th @ 9:00 a.m. **Chaplet of Divine Mercy**;
- Saturday, July 29th @ 5:00 p.m. Mass for **Karin Krennek**, birthday remembrance, requested by her family;
- Sunday, July 30th @ 8:00 a.m. Mass for **Michael Conway**, requested by **Prayer Shawl Ministry**, and,
- Sunday, July 30th @ 11:00 a.m. Mass for **Rose Renna**, requested by her 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:	\$ 4,756.00
Faith Direct weekly giving:	\$ 4,151.46
Total:	\$ 8,907.46
Other Generous Giving	
Various	\$ 322.00

Upcoming Parish Meetings & Events

July

- Fri, 21st-Sun, 23rd—Steubenville East Conference
- Sat, 22nd—Confession, 4 p.m.
- Mon, 24th—NO Confession, 6 p.m.
- Tues, 25th—NO Adoration, Church, 9 a.m.
- Wed, 26th—Rosary, Church, 9 a.m.
- Fri, 28th—Youth Ministry, RH, 6 p.m.
- Sat, 29th—Carnival Meeting, RH, 9 a.m.
- Sat, 29th—Confession, 4 p.m.
- Sun, 30th—St. Elizabeth House, prkng lot, 3:45 p.m.
- Sun, 30th—Youth Ministry, RH, 6 p.m.
- Mon, 31st—Confession, 6 p.m.

August

- Tues, 1st—Adoration, Church, 9 a.m.
- Wed, 2nd—Rosary, Church, 9 a.m.
- Fri, 4th—Chaplet of Divine Mercy, 9 a.m.
- Sat, 5th—Confession, 4 p.m.
- Sun, 6th—Homebound Communion
- Mon, 7th—Confession, 6 p.m.
- Tues, 8th—Adoration, Church, 9 a.m.
- Wed, 9th—Rosary, Church, 9 a.m.
- Fri, 11th—Chaplet of Divine Mercy, 9 a.m.
- Fri, 11th—Youth Ministry, RH, 6 p.m.
- Sat, 12th—Carnival Meeting, RH, 9 a.m.
- Sat, 12th—Confession, 4 p.m.
- Sun, 13th—Youth Ministry, RH, 6 p.m.

Sanctuary Lamp

For a
Special Intention
from
the Helitzer Family.



Weeds, seeds and everyday life

The gospel today speaks to us about a parable of a garden, the sower of good seeds and weeds in and amongst his crops. An invasion of “weeds,” those things that I had not intended to plant nor want in my garden. I am sure we all have planted things—flowers and vegetables—that have been invaded by the weeds of the garden. It is a part of life.

With social media, 24/7 news coverage and the ever-present internet, it may seem like the “weeds” are more plentiful today—or is it that we are just inundated by the never-end cycle of ‘Pete-and-repeat?’

The parable of the sower today asks us to recognize the role of Christ in our lives, and that our faith calls us to forgiveness and reconciliation. The weeds are allowed to grow along with the intended seedlings in the garden and that in the end the Lord Himself will give the weeds opportunities, if you will, to convert to good fruits—leave the weedy life behind and become a child of God. That is our hope and that must be our prayer.

What then is our role then in the life of the garden? Do we just let the weeds do their thing—while we strive to live the good life, it does not seem so fair? Is all my effort at living a righteous life worth it if the other weeds can just do as the like and then “get into the Kingdom?” Well, the meaning of today’s gospel reading is not about the “bad weeds” getting into Heaven after a life of dissipation, rather, it is about converting to the Way, the Truth, and the Life of Christ. It is in the conversion from weeds and seeds and good fruit that the Kingdom of Love is open to them. Moreover, our role in God’s harvest is to help plant, water and till the garden of faith for other people by the way, in which we each live our lives of faith. We are the examples and the guides to the Christian faith. In the celebration of the Mass, in Eucharistic prayer two, there is a phrase that states, “...thank you for counting us worthy to be in Your Presence and Minister to you,” that we serve God in the ways we serve each other. We serve God in the ways we lead others to Him—our children, our spouses, neighbors and strangers.

Sometimes it may seem that our Catholic faith is very highbrow and always comprised of a deep theological point, but more times than not it is simple, straightforward and very commonsense. It is about love, mercy and forgiveness; it is about seeking the excellence of the other—even when they do not wish to seek it for themselves.

So as hard as it may be, let the weeds grow, and let God do His work in His time. While it may be tempting to rip the weeds up, our role is to point out the untruths with His Truth, correct the myths and misinformation while always seeking the excellence of the other, to lead by example and to pray that all shall see His Way. “Preach often and sometimes use words,” as St. Francis of Assisi said.

Altar servers

Signup sheets are in the vestibule and atrium for those in 4th grade and above. If you would like to consider serving God and His Church at Mass, please sign up and come to an information and training session slated for late August. Date to be in the bulletin next week.

Nurturing Seedlings

Our parish will be a pilot program for a new Archdiocesan program to engage parents and young families—from Baptism until they enter into faith formation classes—in the practice of our faith. If you want to be part of a younger community of friends and believers, and find out how to engage your children and families in the lived experience of faith as well as build up our parish community, then this ministry is for you!

I am looking for three or four parents of young children between the ages of 2 or 3 years old and first grade to meet with me and discuss the parameter of this ministry. I would like to initiate this ministry in October, and plan for turnover as the children age. No life-long commitment to ministry—you age-out as your children do. Feel free to call me with any questions. —Fr. Michael 860 658 1642

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

Please use this link to register your children for our upcoming faith formation classes as soon as possible:

<https://forms.ministryforms.net/viewForm.aspx?formId=3fb7036f-1436-4110-97cc-76a32183eb88>

Faith Formation is seeking additional teachers for a variety of grades. Please contact Zach Wood at the number above if you are interested in joining this important ministry!



CARNIVAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Saturday, September 16th, 2023

CARNIVAL HELP NEEDED Teen and adult volunteers are needed to help run our Carnival games. This is a great way for individuals of all ages and families to get involved with our parish! All are welcome and invited to join us! **Earn Confirmation service hours while having fun with your family and friends.**

JOIN US ON SATURDAY, JULY 29th from 9-11 a.m. to help paint our carnival games. Even 1 hour will help! If you are able to help, please use this sign up genius link: <https://bit.ly/425opHz>. **Confirmation service hours available!**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16th-TEEN AND ADULT VOLUNTEERS are needed to help run games at the Carnival. Help make this day fun for all! Sign up for one shift or all day with your family or friends. Use this sign up genius link to sign up to help! There is something for everyone. <https://bit.ly/430dDU5>



CARNIVAL BAKERS NEEDED

Baked goods are needed for our Family Picnic/ Backyard Carnival on Saturday, September 16th for one of our children's Carnival games—our Cake/ Bake Walk. The baked items will be a prize for the kids, so let's have fun with this and be creative!

Whatever you like to bake, they will like to eat! Bake your favorite or easiest recipe for cupcakes, brownies, cookies and cookie bars, cakes. Kids love frosting, gummy bears, sprinkles, m&ms, you name it, they like it.

If you are able to bake, please use this link to sign up: <https://bit.ly/44DE6HC> More details can be found on the sign up on how to package the baked goods and when to drop off on the sign up.

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

PLEASE REGISTER FOR YOUTH MINISTRY 2023-2024. TIME TO REGISTER! Free t-shirt at our FALL KICKOFF meeting if you have registered. Please use this link to register and/or to update any information. We welcome ALL middle and high school teens! **Sign up using this link:** forms.gle/BSSZDAMuArYuH4c88 for junior or senior high. Come see what YM is all about!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED—Sign up to help run a game at our **CARNIVAL, to be held on SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16th**. Please use this sign up genius link and sign up with your friends or family to help: <https://bit.ly/430dDU5> **VOLUNTEERS** are also needed to help **paint games** and get them ready for the Carnival. If you can help for even 1-2 hours, please join us on **SATURDAY, July 29th from 9-11 a.m.** Please use this link to sign up: <https://bit.ly/425opHz>. Confirmation service hours available!

Senior High

SUNDAY, JULY 30th—WATER GAMES AND A PICNIC IN THE PARK- 6-8 p.m. BE PREPARED TO GET WET! Bring a towel to sit on, a picnic dinner and join us for some fun and crazy water games, and so much more! We'll provide the popsicles and pink lemonade! Dress to get wet—rain or shine! Invite a friend too! Please sign up using this sign up genius link: <https://bit.ly/46Yp2GH>

Junior High

FRIDAY, JULY 28th—SUMMER BBQ, WATER GAMES AND MORE! 6-7:30 p.m.—We look forward to seeing you there! BE PREPARED TO GET WET. Join us for some fun and crazy water games and so much more! We'll provide the food and dessert! Dress to get wet—rain or shine! Invite a friend too! Please use this link to sign up : <https://bit.ly/43L6MhW>

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

St. Mary's School has positions available for the 2023 - 2024 school year;

Classroom Assistants, Substitute Teachers

Please contact Mrs. Kerri Work to apply or for more information -
kwork@stmarysimsbury.eduk12.net

Worldwide Marriage Encounter is sponsoring a variety of in-person and virtual marriage experiences, some on weekends and some on seven weekdays. Couples will explore their relationship with each other, God, and the Church. Registration is limited and a \$100 application fee is required. For more information or to apply, call Frank & Margie Pearson at 860-337-2447 or visit them at <https://www.mectw.org/>. The Magi followed the Star to find the newborn King. Make the same journey with your spouse to bring your relationship to Jesus. Sign up to attend a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience together: Feb 3-5, 2023 in Huntington, NY, Mar 10-12, 2023 in Upton, MA, Jun 23-25, 2023 in Huntington, NY.

Parishioner's Corporal Works of Mercy & Parish Ministry News

July 31st is the next service date for
St. Elizabeth House. Sign up at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F44ADAD2DA64-stelizabeth36>

PANTRY PARTNERS

SCPP provides fresh vegetables and protein to families in need. The food is purchased from Super Foodtown in New Hartford and they are a wonderful partner in this ministry. The next distribution date is Saturday, August 19th.

FEED THE HUNGRY

Lunch Service on Aug 19th

Please sign up by Weds., Aug 16th. We're serving those in need!

Can you volunteer? There are 3 ways to help:

1. Serve Lunch In-Person: Carpool from St. Catherine 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 will be done by 1:00 p.m. and return to Simsbury afterwards.

2. Prepare a cold salad. Make your favorite macaroni or potato salad to serve 10-12 people. Deliver your dish in a disposable container to Russell Hall kitchen on Saturday, Aug 19th between 8:30-9:30 a.m.

3. Make sandwiches: Please see the weekly bulletin "Street Sandwich Ministry" section to sign-up. Sign Up at <https://bit.ly/FTHLunchAug19>

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

YES YOU "CAN" – TAKE WHAT YOU NEED/LEAVE WHAT YOU CAN

Located in St. Catherine's kitchen

We continue to help support various needs of local families with food needs and food insecurity. This would not be possible to do without your ongoing generosity and support! Thank you to all of you!

This month, we continue to look for donations of **coffee, cold cereal, tomato sauce, macaroni and cheese, canned beans, fruit, and rice**. 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.

PLEASE-NO EXPIRED FOODS OR OPENED CONTAINERS

Thank you for your ongoing support of our St. Catherine food pantry.