

Livestream
all Masses

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Saint Catherine

Roman Catholic Church of Siena

Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time November 12, 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, November 11th @ 5:00 p.m.** Mass for **Ronald Dudley**, requested by his wife & son;
- **Sunday, November 12th @ 8:00 a.m.** Mass for **Francis Hoffman**, requested by Myles & Julia McCabe;
- **Sunday, November 12th @ 11:00 a.m.** Mass for **Michael Cirafici**, 5th anniversary, requested by his wife;
- **Monday, November 13th @ 8:30 a.m.** Mass for **Herbert Erikson**, requested by the Pellino Family;
- **Tuesday, November 14th @ 8:30 a.m.** Mass for **Judy Hark**, birthday remembrance, requested by her family;
- **Tuesday, November 14th @ 9 a.m.** Adoration;
- **Wednesday, November 15th @ 8:30 a.m.** Mass for **Tom Rooney**, requested by Julia & Myles McCabe;
- **Wednesday, November 15th @ 9:00 a.m.** Rosary;
- **Friday, November 17th @ 8:30 a.m.** Mass for **Patricia Weiss**, birthday remembrance, requested by Theresa Bellacosa;
- **Friday, November 17th @ 9:00 a.m.** Chaplet of Divine Mercy;
- **Saturday, November 18th @ 5:00 p.m.** Mass for **Sandy Zele**, 20th anniversary, requested by the Hammond Family;
- **Sunday, November 19th @ 8:00 a.m.** Mass for **Anna Koch**, birthday remembrance, requested by Manuela Hanshaw; and,
- **Sunday, November 19th @ 11:00 a.m.** Mass for **Richard Girardin**, 1st anniversary, requested by the Chait Family.



Sanctuary Lamp

In memory of
John Mercurio
requested by the Rosato Family.

Logan's Foundation for Childhood Cancer was overwhelmed by the parish's response to our table! Your contributions go a long way, and help us continue to support families who are coping with a child's cancer diagnosis. Thank you for keeping our mission in your prayers! To learn more and/or to make a contribution in the future, please visit, <https://logansfoundationforchildhoodcancer.org/>

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:	\$ 6,442.00
Faith Direct weekly giving:	\$ 4,094.54
Total:	\$ 10,536.54

Other Generous Giving

Various	\$ 55.00
Repair & Refurbishment	\$ 25.00

*This week's second collection
is for Repair & Refurbishment.*

Upcoming Parish Meetings & Events

November

- Sat, 11st-Mon, 13th—Street Sandwich Weekend
- Sat, 11th—Feed the Hungry,
- Sat, 11th—Confession, Church, 4 p.m.
- Sun, 12th—Faith Formation, HJMS, 9:30 a.m.
- Sun, 12th—Children's Liturgy, RH—B, 11 a.m.
- Sun, 12th—Confirmation, RH, 6 p.m.
- Mon, 13th—Prayer Shawl, Rooney A, 3:00 p.m.
- Mon, 13th—NO Confession, Church, 6 p.m.
- Tues, 14th—Adoration, Church, 9 a.m.
- Tues, 14th—Prayer Shawl, Rooney A, 6:30 p.m.
- Tues, 14th—Children's Choir, MR, 6:30 p.m.
- Tues, 14th—Adult Choir, Church, 7:30 p.m.
- Wed, 15th—Rosary, Church, 9 a.m.
- Wed, 15th—Jr. High Youth Ministry, RH, 6 p.m.
- Thurs, 16th—Women's Service Min., RH, 9:30 a.m.
- Fri, 17th—Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Church, 9 a.m.
- Sat, 18th—Pantry Partners, Vestibule, 9 a.m.
- Sun, 19th—Coffee & Donuts, RH, 9 a.m. & noon.
- Sun, 19th—Faith Formation, HJMS, 9:30 a.m.
- Sun, 19th—Children's Liturgy, RH-B, 11 a.m.
- Sun, 19th—Gable Brigade dist, Vestibule, 3 p.m.
- Sun, 19th—YM Apple Pie making, RH, 5:30 p.m.
- Mon, 20th—Confession, Church, 6 p.m.
- Mon, 20th—Jr. High Youth Ministry, RH, 6 p.m.

Will the Lord know me? The answer is found in my choices.

Today's gospel parable uses imagery and titles from the time when Christ spoke to the people of the ancient world. For some today, it may seem outdated and therefore dismissed as not applicable. However, if we view it with eyes of faith and an open mind, we can come to understand its power for our lives in 2023.

Perhaps the main theme is this: **if God knows me by words and deeds of my life, what will He think of me? Do I live out His Commands: "I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."** *John 13:34-35.*

To live in love means to have care for another. In addition, while there are different distinctions in love (C.S. Lewis' Four Loves), love always has a common denominator, the search for the excellence of the other.

Therefore, do I care/love for the hungry, the homeless, the forgotten, the lost, the sick, the ignorant? Alternatively, am I one who is simply indifferent, therefore lukewarm in the practice of love/care/fait? Could it be that I just do not care/love/have faith?

Indeed, God shall know us by the lived experiences of our lives. Remember the old song, "They will know you are Christian by your love," and the "they" includes God Himself.

So again we can ask: Do I care for the needy, do I proclaim and promote my faith, either in a conversation when untruth is being promoted, or by the way people see me act when I come into contact with a sister or brother in need? Do I call people to the Truth? How often do I pray to God, and of what does my prayer life consist? Or shall God know me by my selfishness, anger, lack of hope and charity?

The choice is certainly mine alone. For that is the gift of Free Will.

In our second reading this weekend St Paul says, "For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God, through Jesus, bring with him those who have fallen asleep." It is our faith that the promise of Christ is to raise us up like Himself and welcome us into the glory of the Kingdom of Heaven. In fact in the Gospel of John, Christ tells us of the Will of the Father saying, "This is the will of the One who sent me, says the Lord, that I should not lose any of what He gave me, but that I shall raise it on the Last Day." (Jn) If we believe this, then it would be wise of us to be prepared, like the wise virgins, for the final coming of the Bridegroom. So to be prepared we must know what our Faith teaches, and not just the "thou shall nots of our faith," but of equal import to know what it truly means to live-out the commands of Christ, to love one another in the caring of and search for the excellence of the others—our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Therefore, this weekend's ancient parable is about four things:

1. That God will know us by our words and deeds, how we act, in life.
2. That we are free to choose how we will live our lives out, by virtue of God's gift of Free Will. That is how pure His Love is.
3. The Choices we make, like all choices in life, must be well formed in knowledge, Wisdom and Truth.
4. In addition, it would be wise to be well prepared for the Bridegroom's second coming. Not to wait to the last minutes of life to come to God, hoping on a "wing and a prayer" that we will have time enough to go out and buy "enough oil to light our lamps" when He knocks. *Where to start? For sure to avail ourselves of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and to check out our coming Parish Calendar for upcoming seminars, retreats, and guest speakers on Knowing the Catholic Faith. Link soon to be found on our website. Future bulletins will have update notices.*

Thanks to our parish!

This past weekend I found myself suddenly under the weather with a positive Covid test. With a day to organize all the weekend Masses and early weekday Masses, it took many hands to make it all work.

I want to thank our parish staff for helping me with plans. And a special thanks to our Eucharistic Ministers, altar servers, lectors, and sacristan for their hands-on leadership at all the Masses; our Welcoming Committee for organizing the reception after the 11 a.m. Mass, and to Susan Zybert for overseeing the Proclamation of the Names of the Dead for our All Souls' Celebration at the 11 a.m. Mass. My sincere thanks!

St. Catherine of Siena Faith Formation

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

Sun, Nov. 12– K-8 & Confirmation 1 & 2

Sun, Nov. 19th—K-8

Nov. 26th– NO CLASSES, Thanksgiving Weekend.

Dec. 3th– K-8 & Confirmation 1 & 2.



Kerygma Series-Adult Faith Formation

Who is Mary and What do we know about her? What is the Immaculate Conception? Do we Worship Mary? Do you want to know more about the Mother of God and what we believe as Catholics? Come Join us on November 27th in Russell Hall from 6:30-8 p.m.

for the second session of our Kerygma Series! RSVP here

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E44ACAC2DABFDC70-46010240-kerygma>



Prayer Shawl Ministry-This Monday, November 13th at 3:00 p.m. and Tuesday, November 14th at 6:30 p.m. the Prayer Shawl Ministry will be holding this month's meetings. Mark your calendars! If you have any questions or wish to request a prayer shawl, please contact Kathy Oaks at 860-614-2773 or ktoaks@gmail.com.



Save the Date Santa's Birthday Party for Jesus Friday, December 1st

St. Catherine families are invited to join Santa Claus as we kick off the Advent and Christmas seasons to celebrate the birth of Jesus! We will have cupcakes and hot cocoa available as you listen to a Christmas story and write your letter to Santa. A photographer will be available to snap a photo of your family with Santa, and as you leave the birthday party you'll get a goody bag with a take-home craft, some reindeer food and slips of paper to write acts of kindness on to soften Jesus' manger. Throughout Advent, every family can perform acts of kindness which you can write down on the paper (piece of hay) to add to the manger that will be in the Atrium of the Church.

Instead of a birthday present for Jesus, we ask that you bring a non-perishable food item for our food pantry.

RSVPs to the party and sign ups to volunteer for the event will be forthcoming.

Confirmation service hours available.

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Senior High

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19th—Our all time favorite night-APPLE PIE NIGHT! From 5:30-8 p.m. in Russell Hall. Join the youth ministry annual tradition of making apple pies for local soup kitchens and shelters! Invite a friend to join us too as we bake apple pies for local area shelters. **WHAT TO BRING:** Large bag of apples, an apple peeler, a paring knife and a cutting board. Everything else will be supplied. **Confirmation service hours available. ADULT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!** Teens and parents can sign up here using this link: <https://bit.ly/3FEjEvW>
SAVE THE DATE: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5th-BOSTON MISSION TRIP ZOOM INFORMATIONAL MEETING at 7 p.m. Come learn about our plans for this year's Boston Mission Trip scheduled for the spring. All high school teens are invited. **Please plan to attend with a parent if you will be applying for the Mission Trip to Boston this year.**

Junior High

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15th-COOK AND BAKE from 6-8 p.m. in Russell Hall. Please join us this evening as we prepare a full course dinner for local families in need. **Invite a friend to join us too. NO COOKING EXPERIENCE IS NECESSARY. Parent Volunteers Needed!** <https://bit.ly/3tL0Msb>

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20th—TURKEY TALK-LET'S TALK TURKEY from 6-8 p.m. in Russell Hall. Enjoy some refreshments and our **Famous Face Competition.** We will also bake breads for Thanksgiving for the homeless, and so much more. See what surprises are in store for you. Bring a friend too. **Parent Volunteers Needed!** <https://bit.ly/477TEVi>

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

DRIVERS NEEDED TO HELP DELIVER PIES

Youth Ministry is looking for 4 drivers to help deliver apple pies to local area shelters in Hartford on **Monday, November 20th at 9:30 am.** If you are able to help, please use this sign up genius link to sign up:



<https://bit.ly/45WzWe2>

Thank you in advance for your help!

Christmas cards are being ordered and soon it will be time for our Christmas elves to get together to help prepare the mailing!

Anyone interested is asked to call the office, 860-658-1642 or email stcathy@comcast.net. Ideally we need 8 elves. Refreshments will be provided. We will meet in Russell Hall at a date to be determined. Thank you.

Parishioner's Corporal Works of Mercy & Parish Ministry News

Calling All Bakers: LIFESONG ministry would love to distribute fresh baked goods next month to our neighbors in need. Would you like to bake a cake, cookies or pie to share? If so, please sign up <https://bit.ly/3s6EFf1> then drop off your Non-refrigerated baked goods in Russell Hall on **Sunday November 12th or Monday the 13th**. If your goodies need to be refrigerated, please drop off after 9 a.m. Monday. Thank you in advance for being a generous neighbor.

Diane Whittemore, 860-913-0241.

The next distribution date for Pantry Partners will be **November 18th**. This ministry provides fresh fruit, vegetables and protein to over 20 families in the community. Thank you so much for your continued support!

St. Elizabeth House-November 26th

Sign up at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F44ADAD2DA64-stelizabeth40#/>

LIFESONG ministry is seeking volunteers to help sort and hang clothing on Monday morning, November 13th, 10 a.m. at Shepard of the Hills church in the north end of town. Any help is appreciated. Please call Diane Whittemore at 860-913-0242.

Give the Gift of Warmth-The next Women's ministry Service activity will be on **Thursday, November 16th beginning at 9:30 a.m.** We will be making no-sew fleece blankets for the children living in Hartford shelters. Refreshments will be served. Come join us for a creative morning of conversation and compassion. Please sign up using this sign up genius: <https://bit.ly/3QqkYau>
Questions, feel free to contact Diane Whittemore.

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

Located in St. Catherine's kitchen

Thank you for your amazing generosity and ongoing support of our food pantry! This week, we continue to look for **coffee, canned fruit, peanut butter, spaghetti sauce, canned chicken and tuna and "Spam", oatmeal, Granola bars, cans of peanuts, large juice (any variety) and boxed /shelf milk.** 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. **WE ARE UNABLE TO ACCEPT EXPIRED FOODS OR OPENED CONTAINERS.**



St. Joseph's Residence Presents

Christmas Bazaar

10th November 2pm - 6pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Raffles● Baked Goods● Christmas Sales● Games & More!	11th November 10am - 3pm
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1365 Enfield St. Enfield, CT 06082
For more info call 860-265-1872
www.littlesistersofthepoorconnecticut.org



**Little Sisters of the Poor
St. Joseph's Residence**

Thanksgiving TURKEY DRIVE

Accepting Turkeys, Ham, Candy & Gift Cards

Saturday 18 NOV 2023 | 10AM - 3PM

Geissler's Supermarket
100 Bridge Street, East Windsor, CT 06088
For more info call 860-265-1872