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# Saint Catherine

Roman Catholic Church of Siena

First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 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](mailto: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](mailto:stcathy@comcast.net)

Website: [www.stcatherine.info](http://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](mailto:stcathy@comcast.net)

### **Faith Formation Director,**

Mr. Zach Wood, 860-658-4737,

[zwood@stcsimsbury.org](mailto:zwood@stcsimsbury.org)

### **Director of Youth Ministry**

#### **Youth Ministry Office**

Mrs. Manuela Hanshaw, 860 658 1642 or

[Manuelahanshawym@gmail.com](mailto:Manuelahanshawym@gmail.com)

### **Director of Music Ministry**

Mrs. Susan Zybert

860 217 0600 or [susanzybert@comcast.net](mailto: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, December 2nd @ 5:00 p.m.** Mass for *Donald Zele, 12th anniversary*, requested by the Hammond Family;
- **Sunday, December 3rd @ 8:00 a.m.** Mass for *Francis Hoffman*, requested by Manuela Hanshaw;
- **Sunday, December 3rd @ 11:00 a.m.** Mass for *Astra Cerchia 19th, anniversary*, requested by her family;
- **Monday, December 4th @ 8:30 a.m.** Mass for *Ron Dudley, birthday remembrance*, requested by the Men's Club Ministry;
- **Tuesday, December 5th @ 8:30 a.m.** Mass for *Paul Jagla & Marge Capone, birthday remembrances*, requested by their family;
- **Tuesday, December 5th @ 9 a.m.** Adoration;
- **Wednesday, December 6th @ 8:30 a.m.** Mass for *Gus Smith, 40th anniversary*, requested by his family;
- **Wednesday, December 6th @ 9:00 a.m.** Rosary;

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### *Feast of the Immaculate Conception*

- **Thursday, December 7th @ 6:30 p.m.** Mass for *George Couture, birthday remembrance*, requested by his family;
- **Friday, December 8th @ 8:30 a.m.** Mass *Pro Populo*;
- **Friday, December 8th @ 9:00 a.m.** *Chaplet of Divine Mercy*;
- **Friday, December 8th @ 6:30 p.m.** Mass for *Dominic Buonocore*, requested by Mike & Judy Manza;

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- **Saturday, December 9th @ 5:00 p.m.** Mass for *Walter Hampton, 3rd anniversary*, requested by his family;
- **Sunday, December 10th @ 8:00 a.m.** Mass for *Anthony & Lucia Brancato*, requested by their family; and,
- **Sunday, December 10th @ 11:00 a.m.** Mass for *Sharon Garry, birthday remembrance*, 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:	\$ 6,317.12
Faith Direct weekly giving:	\$ 4,094.54
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 10,411.66</b>

### Other Generous Giving

Flowers	\$ 1,644.00
Campaign for Human Dev.	\$ 15.00

### Upcoming Parish Meetings & Events December

- Sat, 2nd—Confession, Church, 4 p.m.
- Sun, 3rd—*Faith Formation, HJMS, 9:30 a.m.*
- Sun, 3rd—Children's Liturgy, RH-B, 11 a.m.
- Sun, 3rd—Advent Wreath Making, RH, 12 p.m.
- Sun, 3rd—Homebound Communion, 12:30 p.m.
- Sun, 3rd—Confirmation, RH, 6 p.m.
- Mon, 4th—Confession, Church, 6 p.m.
- Mon, 4th—Parish Council, Rooney-A, 7 p.m.
- Tues, 5th—Adoration, Church, 9 a.m.
- Tues, 5th—Children's Choir, MR, 6:30 p.m.
- Tues, 5th—Adult Choir, Church, 7:30 p.m.
- Wed, 6th—Rosary, Church, 9 a.m.
- Wed, 6th—Women's Service Min., RH, 7 p.m.
- Thurs, 7th—Women's Service Min., RH, 9:30 a.m.
- Thurs, 7th—Vigil Mass- Immac. Concep, 6:30 p.m.
- Fri, 8th—Holy Day Masses, 8:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.
- Fri, 8th—Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Church, 9 a.m.
- Sat, 9th—Confession, Church, 4 p.m.
- Sat, 9th—Store time, RH, 6 p.m.
- Sun, 10th—*Faith Formation, HJMS, 9:30 a.m.*
- Sun, 10th—Children's Liturgy, RH-B, 11 a.m.
- Sun, 10th—Sr. High Youth Ministry, RH, 5:30 p.m.
- Mon, 11th—Confession, Church, 6 p.m.
- Mon, 11th—Jr. High Youth Ministry, RH, 6 p.m.
- Tues, 12th—Adoration, Church, 9 a.m.
- Tues, 12th—Children's Choir, MR, 6:30 p.m.
- Tues, 12th—OCIA, RH, 7 p.m.
- Tues, 12th—Adult Choir, Church, 7:30 p.m.

## What's it all about, Advent?

Beginning the Church's liturgical year, Advent (from, "ad-venire" in Latin or "to come to") is the season encompassing the four Sundays (and weekdays) leading up to the celebration of Christmas. In 2023, Advent begins on Sunday, 3 December and the Season ends on Sunday, 24 December.

The Advent season is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time AND to the anniversary of Our Lord's birth on Christmas. From the earliest days of the Church, people have been fascinated by Jesus' promise to come back. However, the scripture readings during Advent tell us not to waste our time with predictions. Advent is not about speculation. Our Advent readings call us to be alert and ready, not weighted down and distracted by the cares of this world (Lk 21:34-36). Like Lent, the liturgical color for Advent is purple since both are seasons that prepare us for great feast days. Advent also includes an element of penance in the sense of preparing, quieting, and disciplining our hearts for the full joy of Christmas.

As we prepare for Christmas, the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* notes some differences to the Mass that should be observed during the season. For instance, the priest wears violet or purple during Advent, except for the Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday) when rose may be worn (GIRM, no. 346). Aside from what the priest wears, other aesthetic changes in the Church can include a more modestly decorated altar, more somber music, and no flowers in the sanctuary.

The final days of Advent, from December 17 to December 24, we focus on our preparation for the celebrations of the Nativity of our Lord at Christmas. In particular, the "O" Antiphons are sung during this period and have been by the Church since at least the eighth century. They are a magnificent theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming of Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but of present ones as well.

Advent devotions including the Advent wreath, remind us of the meaning of the season. An Advent calendar can help you fully enter into the season with daily activity and prayer suggestions to prepare you spiritually for the birth of Jesus Christ. In addition, our parish, St. Catherine of Siena, produces an Advent Calendar of its own to help offer various musical, spiritual and hands-on service projects meant to draw us all deeper into the preparation of our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming and to celebrate fully and rightly the Christmas season. What a wonderful personal and family experience to celebrate both Advent and Christmas for the sole purpose of the Seasons: Christ! *Source: Taken in part from the USCCB.org website.*

## Locally at St. Catherine of Siena at Advent

Here at our parish, we will continue all of our ministries to reach out to our neighbors in need, including but not limited to Pantry Partners, St. Elizabeth House, Feed the Hungry, Street Sandwich ministry and Comitas and more. Additionally, we shall have an Advent Wreath making event on December 3rd and a Penance Service on December 13th at 7 p.m. The celebration of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception on December 8th; Vigil Mass on Dec. 7th, 6:30 p.m., on December 8th at 8:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Our Christmas Pageant will be on Saturday, December 16th at 4 p.m. (No Confession that day) as well as Wednesday morning rosaries and Bible Study by Fr. Michael. See the Advent Calendar for details.

## Could you be a counter?

I am looking for a few good counters... Every Monday morning following the daily Mass, our parish counts the weekend collections. This important job is not supposed to be performed by parish staff or the priest, but by qualified lay people. I am looking for three to four folks who would be willing to be trained and then take on the role of counter. I want to build two to three teams of three, so that you will not be expected to do this every week. If you are interested and would like to find out more information, contact Fr. Michael either after Mass or at [Fr.whYTE@aohct.org](mailto:Fr.whYTE@aohct.org), or stop by the parish office and speak with Lisa (860) 658 1642 or at [stcathy@comcast.net](mailto:stcathy@comcast.net) Thank you!

# **St. Catherine of Siena Faith Formation**

**Zach Wood, Director; [zwood@stcsimsbury.org](mailto:zwood@stcsimsbury.org); 860-658-4737.**

**Dec. 3th– K-8 & Confirmation 1 & 2.**

**Dec. 10th-K-8**

**Dec. 16th-Christmas Pageant Rehearsal, 2 p.m.: Christmas Pageant at 4 p.m. in the Church**

**Dec. 17th– K-8 & Confirmation, 1 & 2.**

**No classes Dec. 24 & Dec. 31st. Classes resume January 7th.**



**Our next Women's Ministry Service project will be:  
Cut, Stitch and Stuff a Stocking**

**on both Wednesday, December 6th at 7 p.m. &  
Thursday December 7th at 9:30 am. in Russell Hall.**

Please join us for this fun activity. Please bring small fun items for children ages 5-10 to fill your stocking. Friends are always welcome. No sewing experience needed. Please RSVP to Diane Whittemore at [whittemorediane@yahoo.com](mailto:whittemorediane@yahoo.com) or 860-913-0241.

**Our Christmas Card Elves did an amazing job! We had 9 volunteers and they were finished in under 2 hours! Thank you to Kathy Caputo, Nydia Caruso, Ronnie Conway, Susan Farrell, Jenny Hayes, Barbara Hopkins, Eileen Landi, Jean Marshall, and Marghan Pendergast. Your help was greatly appreciated! Many hands make light work.**

**Our Advent Penance Service will take place on Wednesday, December 13th at 7 p.m. There will be 2 priests available in addition to Fr. Whyte.  
Please mark you calendars.**

**Save the date: Men's Retreat at Holy Family Retreat Center, March 15th-17th**  
Register at [holyfamilyretreat.org](http://holyfamilyretreat.org)  
Any questions please contact  
Steve Cerchia, [fscerchia@gmail.com](mailto:fscerchia@gmail.com) or Tom Lonergan, [txlone@cox.net](mailto:txlone@cox.net).



# YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

## Senior High

**PLEASE JOIN US THIS TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5<sup>th</sup>-FOR OUR BOSTON MISSION TRIP ZOOM INFORMATIONAL MEETING at 7 pm.** Come learn about our plans for this year's Boston Mission Trip scheduled for March. 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.**

To Join the Zoom meeting on Dec 5, 2023 at 7:00 p.m., use this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89697661254>

Meeting ID: 896 9766 1254

**TEEN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED—SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9<sup>th</sup>—ONCE UPON A BOOK STORYTIME FOR CHILDREN from 6-6:45 p.m.** in Russell Hall, immediately followed by dinner for all teens who participate-let's pick a fun place- ice cream, playa bowls, or who knows, but together! Please sign up to help read a story or help with a craft or snacks using this sign up genius link: <https://bit.ly/3ucA5Nb> Confirmation service hours available

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10<sup>th</sup>-A "NOT-SO-SILENT-NIGHT" - CHRISTMAS PARTY/SERVICE PROJECT from 5:30-8 p.m.** in Russell Hall. You must register using the sign up genius for this event. This won't be a silent night, so expect anything! **What to bring?** A "wrapped" gift (brown paper bags are fine), for our gift exchange valued between \$5-\$10. **Parent Volunteers Needed!** Please use this sign up genius link to register: <https://bit.ly/40rWEd2>

## Junior High

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 11<sup>th</sup>-A "NOT-SO-SILENT-NIGHT" - CHRISTMAS PARTY/SERVICE PROJECT from 6:00-8 p.m.m** in Russell Hall. You won't want to miss this, but you must register using the sign up genius for this event. This won't be a silent night, so expect anything! **Parent Volunteers Needed!** Please use this sign up genius link to register: <https://bit.ly/3R6QIIG>

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

## ONCE UPON A BOOK STORYTIME FOR CHILDREN

### A Christmas Program

Youth Ministry invites you to please join us for our next story time scheduled for **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9<sup>th</sup>, from 6-6:45 p.m. immediately following the 5 p.m. Mass for Stories, snacks and crafts! All children 3-8 are welcome!**

**This evening will be a special evening in this Season of Advent.**

Please register in advance using this sign up genius link:

<https://bit.ly/46IzH7x>

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

### DECEMBER STREET SANDWICH MINISTRY

Our December Street Sandwich Ministry collection will take place the weekend of **December 16<sup>th</sup>**. Sandwiches are needed for **Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, and Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup>**. **PLEASE ONLY DELIVER SANDWICHES ON THIS WEEKEND.**

Sandwiches can be dropped off **Saturday and Monday mornings from 8-9:30 a.m., and Sunday from 9-6 p.m., 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.**

**Also, if making PB&J, please spread PB on both slices of bread and then put the jelly in between. This provides extra protein and prevents the jelly from seeping into the bread.**

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: <https://bit.ly/3MWSC75>

**Confirmation hours available.**

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, December 16th.

### FEED THE HUNGRY Lunch Service on Sat, Dec 16th. Please sign up by Weds, Dec 13th.

There are 4 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 an early Thanksgiving meal for residents as well as for other food insecure guests. We will be done by 1:00 p.m.
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, 12/14 at Fitzgeralds and drop off the hot meal to Russell Hall kitchen on Saturday, 12/16 between 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. We'll contact you ahead of time with recipe and more information if you haven't done this before.
3. **NEW - Make Cupcakes:** Let's add some holiday cheer. Make festive cupcakes and drop off on Sat, 12/16 to Russell Hall kitchen between 8:30-9:30 a.m.
4. **Make sandwiches:** Please see the weekly bulletin "Street Sandwich Ministry" section to sign-up. Sign Up at <https://bit.ly/FTHLunchDec16>  
Questions? Contact Rich Sickinger at 860-558-6940. [richsickinger@gmail.com](mailto:richsickinger@gmail.com)

**St. Elizabeth House-December 17th. Sign up at:**

**<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F44ADAD2DA64-stelizabeth41>**

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

*Located in St. Catherine's kitchen*

If you can help, our pantry supplies are low. Donations are needed of **coffee, fruit, peanut butter, spaghetti sauce, cold and hot cereal, boxed milk, rice, and macaroni and cheese.** All donations can be delivered using the kitchen entrance. Our pantry is open to all from 9 am – 6:00 pm, but not available during Mass.

**WE ARE UNABLE TO ACCEPT EXPIRED FOODS OR OPENED CONTAINERS.**