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Saint Catherine

Roman Catholic Church of Siena

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 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, December 23rd @ 5:00 p.m. Mass for *Laura Satrape, 26th anniversary*, requested by Steve & Lisa Cerchia;
 - Sunday, December 24th @ 8:00 a.m. Mass for *Giovanna Zinone*, requested by Myles & Julia McCabe;
- NO 11:00 A.M. MASS ON DECEMBER 24TH.**
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- CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS DAY**
- Sunday, December 24th @ 4:30 p.m. Mass for *Mary & James Zapp*, requested by the Kraft Family;
 - Sunday, December 24th @ 6:30 a.m. Mass for *Dorothy & Leonard Ianzito*, requested by their family;
 - Sunday, December 24th @ 10:00 p.m. Mass for *Pro Populo*;
 - Monday, December 25th @ 10:00 a.m. Mass for *Pro Populo*;
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- Tuesday, December 26th @ 8:30 a.m. Mass for *Carol Romano, birthday remembrance*, requested by Kathy Reilley;
 - Tuesday, December 26th @ 9 a.m. Adoration;
 - Wednesday, December 27th @ 8:30 a.m. Mass for *Lisa Phaneuf, birthday remembrance*, requested by her family;
 - Wednesday, December 27th @ 9:00 a.m. Rosary;
 - Friday, December 29th @ 8:30 a.m. Mass *George Hark, birthday remembrance*, requested by the Hark Family;
 - Friday, December 29th @ 9:00 a.m. *Chaplet of Divine Mercy*;
 - Saturday, December 30th @ 5:00 p.m. Mass for *James Neagle, 10th anniversary*, requested by his family;
 - Sunday, December 31st @ 8:00 a.m. Mass for *Bill Bitterli, birthday remembrance*, requested by Barbara & Steve Ruszala; and,
 - Sunday, December 31st @ 11:00 a.m. Mass for *James Hall, Jr., birthday remembrance*, requested by his family.

January 1st is not a Holy Day of obligation this year.
We will have Mass on 10 a.m. on January 1st.

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:	\$ 6,882.59
Faith Direct weekly giving:	\$ 4,094.54
Total:	\$ 10,976.59
Other Generous Giving:	
Various	\$ 689.00

Upcoming Parish Meetings & Events

December

- Sat, 23rd—Confession, Church, 4 p.m.
 - Sun 24th—8 a.m. Mass ONLY, NO 11 a.m. Mass,
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- Christmas Eve**
Masses at 4 p.m., 6:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.
Prelude Concert at 9:30 p.m.
- Christmas Day—Mass at 10 a.m.**
(No Confession)
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- Tues, 26th—NO Adoration/NO Choir
 - Wed, 27th—Rosary, Church, 9:00 a.m.
 - Thurs, 28th—Bereavement, RH, 10 a.m.
 - Fri, 29th—Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Church, 9 a.m.
 - Sat, 30th—Confession, Church, 4 p.m.
 - Sat, 30th & Sun. 31st—Regular Mass Schedule

The Solemnity of the Blessed Mother is NOT
a Holy Day of Obligation this year because
it falls on a Monday;
Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m.

January

- Mon, 1st—Office Closed/NO Confession.

Advent Leaves...

As we say goodbye to Advent, where we have considered the practice of our faith in our lives and in the world around us, we consider how in the New Year we can experience new ways to bring our faith to life through our words and deeds.

The last Friday of Advent at daily Mass, we heard the Magnificat in the Gospel of Luke, which is Mary's "Yes" to God in bearing His Son into the world. We also hear during these seven days leading up to Christmas the O Antiphons, the Great Antiphons of the Church which illustrate who God is: Wisdom, Joy and more.

We also see in Mary's Magnificat the idea that Mary, as the Perfect Disciple, is our conduit to being a better Christian. When we become closer to Mary we can find ways to grow our faith, we experience the Love and Joy of Christ in our own lives, and then lead others to the happiness that is Eternal.

In Addition, Christmas Cometh.....

So what does Christmas mean to me?

This is a powerful Christmas-question for each of us to ponder. "What does Christmas really, truly mean? *Beyond the presents, the busyness, the parties and more.*

Before I attempt to answer that question, or perhaps just put it into perspective for you, I first wish to **welcome everyone** at our Christmas Masses-our every Sunday Mass attendees and our Christmastime Family. **Welcome!** The Church is a family, with all the family love and all the family problems. Yet, all invited and welcomed to the table of God's Eternal banquet, which is a feast meant to grow and strengthen each of us in the call of Christ to be His people, His family-a family both here on earth and one day eternally in Heaven.

So back to the question of the true meaning of Christmas to me.

Christmas is the feast of the Nativity of the Lord. Christ (Divinity) by the Love of God has intersected with humanity and has raised us all to something better than humanity. We come to Mass each Sunday to hear that message of Eternal, Divine Love. We come to Mass to be nourished by His Body and Blood to

surpass humanity and share His Love with the world. We come to Mass to find ways to be a better Christian: to learn how to forgive and to be forgiven. We come to Mass to be with like-minded community members so as not to feel alone in a world that does not always seek the best of the other, but looks for their worst. We come to Mass to show our children that anxiety is not the plan of God; that working with other teens in learning about God (Faith Formation) and them making that ancient faith more applicable In Life (Youth Ministry) by serving people, having fun and learning about and believing in God is actually easy and fun. We come to Mass to feed the hungry, care for the lost and wondering, and to Praise God for His goodness to us. What a gift faith and Church are! In addition, they are gifts meant to be shared, for the excellence of all...Eternal Life in Heaven.

At St. Catherine of Siena, we excel at all these parts of family. And we invite and welcome all to see the value of our parish, our God and of being connected to Him.

Moreover, we are here for you every week. You are welcomed now and forever.

A Blessed and Happy Christmas and New Year!

St. Catherine of Siena Faith Formation

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

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

YOUTH MINISTRY CLOTHING COLLECTION

Youth Ministry is collecting new or gently used men's jeans, sweatshirts/hoodies, jackets and sneakers for the homeless and underserved. **Our collection will take place throughout January 7th.** If you are able to help, please leave your items in one of two boxes - outside the YM office in the vestibule or in the Atrium. Any women's clothing can be donated to the shelter boxes in the vestibule next to the sacristy door. Thank you in advance for your support.

Prayer Shawl Ministry-You can still pick up a crocheted cross with a prayer card this weekend. They will be in a basket in the vestibule and atrium.

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

We wish you and your family a blessed and Merry Christmas!

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5th— CHOPPED COMPETITION 5:30-8 p.m. in Russell Hall. Join us in this friendly competition as you **create food masterpieces**. We will give you several "normal" ingredients, and then something tricky. Who will be the best creators? Join as a team or sign up individually. Don't like to cook? Taste-testers and judges are needed too! Dinner will be served. **PARENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.** Please register before December 31st so we can purchase all necessary supplies. Use this sign up genius link: <https://bit.ly/3t5oRKz>

Junior High

SAVE THE DATE: WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17th—COOK AND BAKE from 6-8 p.m. in Russell Hall. Tonight we will cook full course dinners for local families that are food insecure or in need. **NO COOKING EXPERIENCE IS NECESSARY.** We provide the recipes, the ingredients, and the step-by-step instructions. **INVITE A FRIEND TOO. PARENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!** Light snacks provided and Confirmation service hours available. Please register using this sign up genius link: <https://bit.ly/3Rz1lPj>

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

Winter/Spring calendars will be available in December.