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# Saint Catherine

Roman Catholic Church of Siena

The Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 23, 2025

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. (Livestreamed)

Daily Mass at 8:30 a.m., 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.

**Choirs accompany the 11 a.m. Mass.**

## **Bulletin Deadline: Monday at 10:00 a.m.**

**Website News: email to:**

[StCatherineWebMaster@Comcast.net](mailto:StCatherineWebMaster@Comcast.net)

267 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.

***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 Coordinator,**

Ms. Grace Treacy, 860-658-4737,

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

### **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  
call us at 658 1642.

## **We Welcome You to Our Family of Faith!**

## WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS



- Saturday, February 22nd @ 5:00 p.m. Mass for *Michael Jablonski, birthday remembrance*, requested by the Couture Family;
- Sunday, February 23rd @ 8:00 a.m. Mass for *Philip Janchuk, 4th anniversary & birthday remembrance*, requested by his family;
- Sunday, February 23rd @ 11:00 a.m. Mass for *Nancy O'Connell, birthday remembrance*;
- Monday, February 24th @ 8:30 a.m. Mass for *Claudia Turco Storm*, requested by the Neureither Family;
- Tuesday, February 25th @ 8:30 a.m. Mass for *Bob Belden*, requested by Julia & Myles McCabe;
- Tuesday, February 25th @ 9:00 a.m. Adoration;
- Wednesday, February 26th @ 8:30 a.m. Mass for *Emil Alacchi*, requested by the Gendron Family;
- Wednesday, February 26th @ 9:00 a.m. Rosary;
- Friday, February 28th @ 8:30 a.m. Mass for *Fr. Tom Lemos*, requested by the Cloud Family;
- Friday, February 28th @ 9:00 a.m. *Chaplet of Divine Mercy*;
- Saturday, March 1st @ 5:00 p.m. Mass for *Steven E. Lasewicz, Jr.*, requested by Claire Hayes;
- Sunday, March 2nd @ 8:00 a.m. Mass for *Julia Donahue*, requested by David & Maryellen Bailey; and,
- Sunday, March 2nd @ 11:00 a.m. Mass for *John D. Eichner, birthday remembrance*, requested by his wife, children & grandchildren.



**+May they Rest in Peace+**

### Sanctuary Lamp

For

*Jerry Winters, 1st anniversary,*  
requested his family.

## OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Our Sunday Collections constitute the operating funds for the parish. You make it possible for us to continue serving you each week. Thank you for your generosity! May God bless you always.

*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: \$ 3,230.00  
Faith Direct weekly giving: \$ 4,066.31  
Total: \$ 7,296.31

Repair & Refurbishment \$ 335.00

**2nd Collection next weekend  
for Repair & Refurbishment.**

### Upcoming Parish Meetings & Events

#### FEBRUARY

- Sat, 22nd—Confession, Church, 4 p.m.
- Sat, 22nd—Reception and Concert, RH, 6 p.m.
- Sun, 23rd—*Faith Formation, HJMS, 9:30 a.m.*
- Sun, 23rd—Children's Lit. of the Word, RH, 11 a.m.
- Sun, 23rd—Altar Server Reception, RH, 12 noon
- Sun, 23rd—Confirmation, RH, 6 p.m.
- Mon, 24th—Confession, Church, 6 p.m.
- Mon, 24th—Jr. High Youth Ministry, RH, 6 p.m.
- Tues, 25th—Adoration, Church, 9 a.m.
- Tues, 25th—Children's Choir, MR, 6:30 p.m.
- Tues, 25th—Adult Choir, Church, 7:30 p.m.
- Wed, 26th—Rosary, Church, 9 a.m.
- Thurs, 27th—Biblical Walk thru Mass, RH, 7 p.m.
- Fri, 28th—Chaplet, Church, 9 a.m.

#### MARCH

- Sat, 1st—Confession, Church, 4 p.m.
- Sun, 2nd—*Faith Formation, HJMS, 9:30 a.m.*
- Sun, 2nd—Children's Lit. of the Word, RH, 11 a.m.
- Sun, 2nd—Homebound Communion, 12 noon.
- Sun, 2nd—Soup, Salad & Service, RH, 12 noon.
- Sun, 2nd—Sr. High Youth Ministry, RH, 6 p.m.
- Mon, 3rd—Confession, Church, 6 p.m.
- Tues, 4th—Adoration, Church, 9 a.m.
- Tues, 4th—Children's Choir, MR, 6:30 p.m.
- Tues, 4th—Adult Choir, Church, 7:30 p.m.
- Wed, 5th—ASH WEDNESDAY (Rosary, 9 a.m.)
- Liturgies of the Word with Ashes,  
7 a.m., 12 noon, 3 p.m.
- Masses with Ashes, 8:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.
- Soup and Bread in Russell Hall, 7 p.m.

## **“Love Your Enemies?” *It’s a work in progress, Lord, I hope!***

This Sunday is a tough gospel to hear as well as one on which to preach, at least for me. In it Jesus commands us to love our enemies and to pray for those who persecute us?! In practical terms, we might ask the question, *just how am I supposed to love someone I am opposed to, like a Joy Reid or Tucker Carlson, or perhaps an organization like Planned Parenthood or Students for Life, or CNN or Fox News—and God forbid, the New York Yankees?* How can I love “those people” who are so opposed to me, my way of life, my beliefs, and my traditions?

As the above headline notes, this must be meant as ‘a work in progress,’ right? In the Sound of Music, Julie Andrews tells us that the only way to deal with difficult things is to “...start at the very beginning, a very good place to start...” (Do-Re-Mi), which might help to make a difficult journey a work in progress as we learn to grow and overcome difficult people, places and things? In fact, further on in the same musical, Julie Andrews gives more personal direction in the song entitled “*I have confidence*,” where singing about her future she asks, “*What will this day be like? I wonder. What will my future be? I wonder. It could be so exciting, to be out in the world, to be free. My heart should be wildly rejoicing, oh what is the matter with me?*” Maybe the key here is not to focus on the negative or the difficult point but rather to faithfully consider something beyond myself or my disagreement and focus on the Hope—that comes from living the three Theological Virtues, to grow in Faith, Hope and Charity.

Well, let’s step out of that 1965 musical and into the real world...but still hold onto that Hope that is faith, that Hope that shall make our hearts wildly rejoice when we learn to love as Christ Loves us—and that means all of humanity.

Again, in reality, it might be hard to begin today by loving those who wish to destroy us or tear down everything in which we have been raised to believe. But, we might begin this journey of love for all humanity by beginning with anyone we struggle with and consider them our enemies—that might bring it closer to home, so to speak and more manageable—and it can define our enemies as someone with whom we already have a personal relationship or encounter.

To love them does not necessarily mean we must become best friends with them—after all, God said “love” your neighbor, He didn’t say “like” them, but it does mean we must work toward having a “true affection of care, concern, understanding and forgiveness toward them.” This can be hard to have toward everyone but it must be our goal. The second part of this command will help. Praying for those who persecute us will help us grow in the proper love and affection we need to foster. This aspect of love is quite straightforward even though it is also quite difficult. Think about those whom you have a very difficult time loving. Those toward whom you have anger. It could be a family member, someone at work, your priest, a neighbor or someone from your past with whom you have never reconciled. Starting at the very beginning, in prayer for them, might also melt our hearts. It’s in keeping with this Gospel passage to honestly admit that there is at least someone—or perhaps more than one person—with whom you struggle, either externally or internally. Admitting this is simply an act of honesty.

Once you identify this person or persons, think about whether you pray for them. Do you spend time regularly offering them to God in prayer? Do you pray that God pours forth His grace and mercy upon them? This may be hard to do but it is one of the healthiest acts you can do. It may be difficult to show love and affection toward them, but it is not hard to consciously choose to pray for them—and at the same time for ourselves to grow in charity.

Praying for those with whom we have a hard time is key to letting God foster a true love and concern in our hearts toward them. It’s a way of letting God reform our emotions and feelings so that we will no longer have to hold on to feelings of anger or even hate. Because our prayer life is not just about doing “good” for others, it is about doing “good” for ourselves. Prayer—and praying for others—changes us too. The following is a simple Catholic prayer we might choose to use for those who are difficult to Love: ***Lord, I pray for the person (or insert a specific name) for whom You want me to pray. Help me to love all people and help me to especially love those who are hard to love.***

***Continued on page 4.***

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

**Grace Treacy, Coordinator, [gracetreacyff@gmail.com](mailto:gracetreacyff@gmail.com)**

**Phone: (860) 658-4737**

**Faith Formation K-8 will meet again this Sunday, February 23rd at HJMS from 9:30-10:30 a.m.** Please come to each class prepared with your books and something with which to write.

**Confirmation meets again February 23rd.** Confirmation I meets from 6-7:15 p.m., Confirmation II meets from 7:15-8:30 p.m. at Saint Catherine.

**Parent's Day #3 (Family Rituals and Traditions) is Feb. 23rd in the HJMS cafe, during class time.** These are mandatory meetings for parents. Coffee and donuts will be provided.

***Please continue to be checking the calendar on the website  
or upcoming events and any changes.***

**Fr. Michael continued from page 3...**

***Reorder my feelings toward them and help me to be free of any anger. Jesus, I trust in You. Amen!***

As we are commanded by God to Love our enemy and to pray for those who persecute us, we have to begin somewhere, and we are smart to begin in prayer, asking for God to bless us with grace to open our hearts and minds, to see the enemy as a something more palatable, and to be able to come to see them as a brother or sister in need and then seek their excellence. After all, as the Lord lets the sun and the rain fall on all the earth and all His peoples, we might also consider that we might make the “hard to Love lists” of someone else.

## **Maryellen and David Bailey, our 2025 St. Joseph Medal of Appreciation Awardees**

Every year, a tough decision is made by each pastor in the Archdiocese of Hartford: the priest must select from among all his parishioners one person or a married couple who are to receive from Archbishop Christopher Coyne, the St. Joseph Medal of Appreciation. We have a long tradition here at St. Catherine of Siena Parish of having an abundance of people who carry out the mission and ministries of our Church, they number in the legions. This year is like all the other years before, a difficult choice to be made for sure, but also the satisfaction that worthy people are being recognized for their good works.

I am honored to announce that Archbishop Coyne has approved my nomination of David and Maryellen Bailey to receive this Archdiocesan award for 2025.

Maryellen and David joined our parish in January 1, 2008 and have been involved in various projects, activities and opportunities. Maryellen leads our parish's altar linen society, ensuring that our parish has clean and properly prepared sacred linens for the celebration of our Masses and other liturgies. She has a trusted group of individuals who work together on this important liturgical project. *If you would like to be a part of this ministry, please call the parish office at 860 658 1642.* Maryellen is a daily Mass attendee and also leads our October Mary Garden outdoor rosary during the month that is dedicated to the sanctity of human life, and is also a member of the weekday rosary and prayer group that prays after the daily Mass. David is a master craftsman, and by avocation he created and designed and then hand-crated our new altar furniture (the altar, ambo—lectern—tabernacle altar, and credence table, including the marble tops). In designing and building them, working closely with me and Mike Grappone, David came up with liturgically correct and space-specific furniture for our new sanctuary. He did an amazing job and to call this a labor of love, is an understatement. I thank both David and Maryellen for their generosity of time, talent and resources for all their good works in His Holy Name.



# YOUTH MINISTRY



## Senior High Youth Ministry

**SUNDAY, MARCH 2nd-KARAOKE NIGHT AND BAKED POTATO BAR** from 6-8 p.m. at St. Catherine of Siena in Russell Hall. Please join us for baked potato night, coupled with Karaoke and a “Sing-Off” challenge. Sing alone or in a group. You might just be the next AGT! Don’t like to sing? Watch your friends sing and help us cheer them on, and of course, eat potatoes! Sign up with this link:

<https://bit.ly/3PQ3C79>

or use this QR code:



**FATHER MICHAEL INVITES ALL TEENS FOR FRIDAY, MARCH 7th from 6-9 PM** at St. Catherine of Siena—**TEEN STATIONS OF THE CROSS, FOLLOWED BY GAME NIGHT AND DESSERT BAR.** Father Michael invites **ALL** teens to participate in the **Teen Stations of the Cross.** Teens are asked to hold a candle, hold the cross, read a station, hand out programs, or just attend. **IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING,** join us in Russell Hall for an amazing selection of desserts, games and prizes. **Earn Confirmation Service Hours.** Please sign up to volunteer using this link:

<https://bit.ly/3Wvcbl3>

or use this QR code:



**BOSTON MISSION TRIP PRE TRIP MEETING—SUNDAY, MARCH 9th at 9:30 a.m.** in Russell Hall. We will meet for breakfast and to cover some important information, then attend Mass at 11 am and receive Father’s blessing at that time. **If you are attending this trip, this meeting is required, including for chaperones.**

## Junior High Youth Ministry

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24th—COOK AND BAKE** from 6-8 p.m. in Russell Hall at **St. Catherine of Siena.** Please join us this evening as we prepare full-course dinners for local families and neighbors in need. No experience is necessary. We provide everything from the recipe to the ingredients and step-by-step instructions. Earn Confirmation Service hours. **INVITE A FRIEND too. PARENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.** Please use this link to sign up to help: <https://bit.ly/4gwAtsJ>

**FATHER MICHAEL INVITES ALL TEENS FOR FRIDAY, MARCH 7th from 6-9 PM** at St. Catherine of Siena—**TEEN STATIONS OF THE CROSS, FOLLOWED BY GAME NIGHT AND DESSERT BAR.** Father Michael invites **ALL** teens to participate in the **Teen Stations of the Cross.** Teens are asked to hold a candle, hold the cross, read a station, hand out programs, or just attend. **IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING,** join us in Russell Hall for an amazing selection of desserts , games and prizes. **Earn Confirmation Service Hours.** Please sign up to volunteer using this link:

<https://bit.ly/3Wvcbl3>

or use this QR code:



*Please be sure to follow us  
on Instagram at  
stcatherine\_youthministry*



## **Women's Service Ministry Soup, Salad & Service– 2 Events**

**1. Please join us for a fun and delicious afternoon on Sunday, March 2nd in Russell Hall following the 11 a.m. Mass.** Enjoy soup, salad, dessert and a fun service project for children living in area shelters. Friends are always welcome! Contact Diane Whittemore at 860-913-0241. Please register using this sign up genius link: [Soup, Salad and Service](#)

**2. Kitchen helpers needed:** Come and cook hot meals for our “Neighbors in Need”. Join the women's service ministry on **Thursday March 6th at 9:15 a.m.** in the church kitchen to make a hot meals, salads and a delicious desserts. **If interested, call Diane Whittemore at 860-913-0241 by Monday 3/3 hope you can join us.**

## **NOURISH WITH** *Hope*

**Pantry Partners** -Thank you to the volunteers who assisted with Saturday's food distribution. Through the generosity of our parishioners and partnership with Big Y in Simsbury, we are able to provide fresh food to over 30 families in the community. Thank you for your continued support of this ministry.

**Our next distribution is March 8th.**

**St. Elizabeth's House**

**Drop off is SUNDAY, March 9th.**

**Thank you for your service!**

***Please use this link to sign up:***

**<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F44ADAD2DA64-54520996-stelizabeth>**

**or use the sign-up sheets in the atrium and the vestibule.**

## **FEBRUARY STREET SANDWICH MINISTRY UPDATE**

**Thank you to all of you that braved the weather this weekend and made sandwiches.** We would like to give a huge shout out to Avon Girls Scouts, parishioner Sandy Kain and her daughter Jackie Paul for organizing the “troops” that made 900 sandwiches for our Street Sandwich Ministry as part of their program about world hunger, local food pantries and more. Over 70 girls and 30 adults participated in this event yesterday despite the weather, and we are deeply grateful to each of you! Many thanks and blessings for your service.

**Our next Street Sandwich Ministry for March is scheduled for the weekend of March 22-24. Earn Confirmation Service Hours.**